Political Science programs\(^1\) teach the study of government and public policy and the political behavior of individuals and groups, encompassing International Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory, Methodology, and American Politics. There are many subfields including International Relations and World Politics, Urban and Ethnic Politics, Legislative Politics, Political Economy, Political Parties and Interest Groups, International Organizations and Law, Public Law and Judicial Politics, and Political Psychology and Socialization. Political Scientists study the origin, development, and operation of political systems and public policy. They use both humanistic and scientific perspectives and skills to examine the United States, all regions and countries of the world, and international relations. Political scientists investigate the ways in which political power is organized, distributed, and used in the United States and in other countries. Political scientists analyze the structure and operation of governments, as well as informal political entities, by studying topics such as public opinion, political behavior, political decision-making, ideology, public administration, political theory, and international relations. They study the aspects of political behavior, processes, policies, and institutions. They conduct research on a wide range of subjects such as relations between the United States and other countries, the institution and political life of nations, the politics of small towns or a major metropolis, or the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. Political scientists consult with government officials, research agencies, political parties, interest groups, businesses, and the press. They analyze and interpret data and other sources of information, and prepare reports detailing findings, recommendations, or conclusions. With this degree, you may qualify for many different careers in private and public sector organizations, including careers in business, the law, state, local, and federal government, journalism, international organizations and finance, political campaigns, interest groups and associations, and teaching. Political science training also provides valuable preparation for participating in community organizations, electoral politics, movements on behalf of specific policies, or even seeking elected or appointed positions in government. A Ph.D. or equivalent degree is the minimum requirement for most positions in colleges and universities and is important for advancement to top level nonacademic research and administrative posts.

Programs at Montana State University\(^2\) provide a coherent and reasoned knowledge respecting government law, governance, political behavior, and public administration. In addition, they are prepared to be part of an informed national and global citizenry. Political science provides an excellent academic background for students preparing for careers in law, public service, journalism, teaching, as well as many private sector jobs. The International Relations option is for students with an interest in international relations who wish to acquire a sound background in the fundamentals of International Relations theory, international institutions, international policy, and international political economy. The Analysis and Policy Option places emphasis on public policy analysis, American political institutions, and political theory.

Characteristics associated with success\(^1\) include an interest in public policy issues, public service, and the legal system.

Occupations in this field require the ability to\(^1\): do thorough research and analysis, express yourself well, both orally and in writing and to understand statistical information, charts, tables, and graphs.

Related occupations include\(^1\):
- Social Services Director
- FBI/CIA Agent
- Foreign Service Officer
- Political Scientist
- Legislator
- Lobbyist
- Sociologist
- Anthropologist
- Economist
- Market-Research Analyst
- Genealogist
- Historian
- Scientific Linguist
- Public Administrator
- Archaeologist
- Conservator

MSU graduates (Bachelor’s degree) were hired in the following selected fields\(^3\):
- Account Executive—Luxury Home Magazine
- Administrative Assistant—Terry McGuiness Insurance, Gaston Engineering & Surveying, Simms Fishing Products, Montana State University
- Assistant/Office Manager- Liz Hubner, CPA P.C.
- Associate Broker—Prudential Colorado Real Estate
- Associate Distributor—Merriam Marketing
- Associate Water Quality Specialist/Environmental Specialist—ECORP Consultation, Inc.
What Can I Do With a Major In...

**Political Science?**

Aviation Officer—US Army
Barista—Starbucks
Banking Center Manager—Bank of America
Battery Executive Officer—U.S. Army
Business Manager—Bell Motor Co., Bozeman Dental Associates
Claim Representative—Farmers Insurance
CNA—Evergreen Health and Rehabilitation
Commercial Lines Producer—Western States Insurance
Construction Superintendent—Building Dimensions Incorporated
Detective—Giant Foods
Director of Member Services-Montana Contractors Association
Director of Membership-Citizens United
Farmer—Reider Farmers
Farm Ranch Hand—Enis and Company
Field Organizer—John Edwards for President, Democratic National Committee
Field Representative—Congressman David Wu
Financial Credit Manager—Wells Fargo Financial Bank
Human Resources Assistant—GSC Foundries, Inc.
Lab Technician—GTC Technologies, Inc.
Legal Case Manager—Public Defenders Office
Logistics Officer—US Army
Manager—Mike’s Off Road
Marketing Assistant—Snelling Personnel Services
Mason—Scott Masonry
Officer—US Army, US Air Force
Paralegal—Browning, Kaleczyc, Barry & Hoven, P.C.
Pilot—US Air Force
Police Officer—City of Livingston
Program Coordinator—National Parks Conservation Association
R.A. II Shift Leader—Gallatin County Re-entry Program
Receptionist—Mergenthaler Transfer
Recruiter—Oxfer International
Research Assistant—Montana State University
Sales Manager—Case New Holland
Second Lieutenant Special Forces—US Army
Server—Birchwood Country Club
Sewing Production—Simms Fishing Products
Special Forces Recruiter—U.S. Army
Staff Assistant—Senator Craig Thomas
Teacher—Flathead School District #5
Title Examiner—Houck Energy Resources, Inc.
Trail Builder—Land Tech Montana
Training and Special Programs Coordinator—Montana State University

Salary averages of survey respondents: (# of respondents in parentheses)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MT: $</th>
<th>Out of State: $</th>
<th>(Number of Respondents)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>37,025</td>
<td>25,114</td>
<td>(8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>22,100</td>
<td>25,114</td>
<td>(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>27,519</td>
<td>30,429</td>
<td>(6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>33,235</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>(8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduates from this program entered programs of further education at these institutions:

Montana State University
University of Washington
Lewis & Clark
American University
University of Oregon
Gonzaga University School of Law

Other Sources of Information:

American Political Science Association: www.apsanet.org
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration: www.naspaa.org

Department of Political Science – Montana State University: www.montana.edu/wwwpo

For more information contact:

Montana State University
Career, Internship & Student Employment Services
177 Strand Union Building
Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-4535
www.montana.edu/careers

2 Montana State University Department of Political Science
3 Montana State University Career & Internship Services