

# Political Science



## Where do Political Scientists work?

Individuals with a Bachelor's degree in political science frequently pursue successful careers in a variety of sectors including academia, business, journalism, law, public administration, nonprofit, and others.

## What is the employment outlook in this field?

A political science degree is valuable either as a first step toward further graduate work, or as a good background bachelor's degree for numerous jobs. According to the US Bureau of Labor, the 2024 median pay for political scientists is \$139,380 per year or \$67.01 per hour. Roughly 6,500 jobs for political scientists were open in 2024.

## Why should I choose HCC?

The Political Science Department of Hagerstown Community College offers a wide range of courses that prepare students for a variety of careers. The department offers courses on media, comparative politics, constitutional law, state and local government, American government, international relations and gender and politics.

## What are the program outcomes?

- Understanding of issues in political science.
- Understanding relevant political mechanisms and institutions
- Communication of events and complex ideas




- Willingness to investigate and understand opposing points of views

## What types of jobs can someone in this field have?

Political science is key to understanding your rights and responsibilities as a citizen and to understanding international politics and law. If political issues interest you, you can pursue them in just about every college and university in the United States. In addition to providing new insight into the political process happening around you every day, these courses also provide valuable analytical and communication skills. Graduates from the HCC Political Science Department have gone on to become lawyers, congressional aides, and journalists to name just a few avenues chosen by students.

## PROGRAM OPTIONS

-  A.A. Political Science Concentration, Arts and Sciences

## CAREER OUTLOOK

MEDIAN SALARY

**\$139K**

for Political Scientists

EMPLOYMENT



6,500 jobs in the U.S.

5% growth in the next ten years

Political scientists will continue to be needed in government to assess the impact of public policy and proposals, such as service efficiencies, budget changes, and other improvements.

(source: [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh))

## What types of students excel in this program?

Students who have solid communication and analytical skills often excel in political science. A curiosity about the social world and the forces shaping society also is helpful in developing the attitudes that are fundamental to driving success in political science.

## What are the program options (transferability, etc.)?

Students in the Political Science Department of Hagerstown Community College transfer to numerous four-year institutions in the area including Shepherd University, University of Maryland-College Park, and Shippensburg University. Other schools where students have transferred to in recent years include Hood College and Fordham University.

A.A. Degree  
**Arts and Sciences**  
**Political Science**  
**Concentration**

The Political Science program provides a sequence of courses for students who plan to transfer into upper division programs in political science. This program includes electives in administration of justice, anthropology, economics, geography, math, management, sociology, and speech and drama. Students should identify an intended transfer institution as early as possible and complete appropriate courses.

**General Education Requirements 31-32 credits**  
**Arts/Humanities**

Select two courses from the approved General Education course list ..... 6

**Behavioral/Social Sciences**

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology ..... 3

**History**

HIS 201 United States History to 1877 ..... 3  
**OR**

HIS 202 United States History Since 1865 ..... 3

**Biological/Physical Science**

Select two courses from approved General Education course list—one must be a laboratory course ..... 7-8

**Diversity**

Select a course from approved General Education course list ..... 3

**English**

ENG 101 English Composition ..... 3

*\*minimum grade of "C" or better is required*

Select another ENG course from approved General Education course list ..... 3

**Mathematics**

MAT 116 Statistical Reasoning ..... 3

**Program Requirements 15 credits**

POL 101 American Government ..... 3

POL 102 State and Local Government ..... 3

POL 103 Mass Media and Democracy ..... 3

**Select two courses from the following:**

POL 202 Constitutional Law ..... 3

POL 204 International Relations ..... 3

POL 206 Comparative Politics ..... 3

**Free Electives 13-14 credits**

Electives should be selected in consultation with an academic advisor. Some recommended courses are listed below:

ADJ 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice ..... 3

ANT 201 Cultural Anthropology ..... 3

COM 103 Public Speaking ..... 3

ECO 201 Macroeconomic Principles ..... 3

ECO 202 Microeconomic Principles ..... 3

GEO 105 World Regional Geography ..... 3

MGT 103 Principles of Management ..... 3

POL 104 Gender and Politics ..... 3

POL 202 Constitutional Law ..... 3

POL 204 International Relations ..... 3

POL 206 Comparative Politics ..... 3

POL 269 Internship I ..... 1-3

SOC 102 Sociology of Social Problems ..... 3

**Degree Requirement ..... 60**



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