In a world shaped by government and politics, political science provides students with an education in how public forces shape our personal lives and shared destinies. The education and training the discipline provides is particularly well-suited for students who seek “externally-faced” careers in the government, not-for-profit and private sectors. Graduates of the program often find jobs that require negotiation with independent stakeholders, monitoring of current events, management of risk in the face of uncertainty and communication to diverse constituencies. College of Staten Island political science majors often find employment as district attorneys, research analysts and investigators for city, state and national government, and political campaign and communication specialists.

Diverse Course Offerings

The CSI Political Science Program helps students examine and understand the complex forces—local, national and global—that define our collective lives by simultaneously teaching students the basics of the field and requiring a diverse range of study. Political Science majors must complete 42 credits of required Political Science courses, at 3–4 credits each, in four subfields: American Politics, Political Theory, Comparative Government, and International Politics. By requiring students to take at least one upper level class in each of these subfields, students are exposed to the interrelated branches of Political Science and practice research and analytical thinking as well as develop a capacity to write and speak about politics in a sophisticated and intellectually-informed manner.

Students pursuing the major are also required to demonstrate either proficiency in a foreign language through the intermediate level, 213, or proficiency in research methods through successful completion of MTH 113 and POL 198.

Minors

The Political Science minor required courses focus on the essential components of the American Political system. Only 6 of the 23 required credits for the minor are structured. This allows students the flexibility to shape a minor that best suits their interests. Whether interested in American politics, comparative government, law, or international government, students can design a minor that reflects their personal interests and career goals.

CSI also offers a minor in Public Administration. This interdisciplinary minor includes courses from the Department of Political Science and Global Affairs, the School of Business, the History Department, and the Sociology Department. Students graduating with a minor in public administration will gain a general understanding of the public administration field, basic organizational management and policy analysis skills, as well as internship experience.

Those interested in legal studies or considering law school may elect to pursue the Legal Studies minor. This minor integrates legal systems courses with legal philosophy, American Constitutionalism, and Law, Courts, and Public Policy courses. Legal philosophy courses will equip students with the knowledge of varied frameworks for critically analyzing the law and its impact on society. Similarly, constitutional law and public policy courses will teach the foundational concepts of the American legal system and how they impact public policy decisions.

Experiential Learning: Internship Opportunities

In addition to emphasizing competency in a diverse range of areas of political study, our faculty recognizes the importance of applying that knowledge in the workplace. Students of Political Science here at CSI have the opportunity to do internships that supplement their academic work.

Our students have completed internships with the NYC Council, NYC District Attorney, NYS Senate, the NYS Assembly, Parliamentarians for Global Action, the New York Program Branch of the United States Department of State, and more! While often unpaid, once...
approved by the program, students may receive college credit for their internship work.

**Preparation for Law School**
Students interested in attending Law School upon completion of their undergraduate work often major in Political Science. The Political Science Program offers courses on the American Legal System, the History of Legal Thought, Criminal Law, Criminal Courts, Human Rights, International Law, and more. These courses are frequently taught by faculty who have earned their J.D. and practiced law. During their academic studies, students consult with our Pre-Law advisor about their courses and preparation for law school.

Political science majors gain critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills as well as administrative competence and communication abilities that are valued in a wide spectrum of potential career areas in both the public and private sector.

A bachelor’s degree in political science can lead to exciting careers in federal, state and local governments; law; business; international organizations; nonprofit associations and organizations; campaign management and polling; journalism; precollegiate education; electoral politics; research and university and college teaching.*

Students may gain practical and professional experience in the political science field by pursuing internship and volunteer opportunities. Politics influence many facets of American life, and students may choose to volunteer for political campaigns, advocacy organizations, unions and city agencies among other organizations. Volunteer efforts may encompass canvassing to encourage citizens to vote and support a political candidate, conducting research to support a policy initiative, or providing direct services by participating in a local community event such as a homelessness count.

*Source: APSA Careers in Political Science

**2015 MEDIAN SALARIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Median Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paralegal</td>
<td>$44,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campaign Manager</td>
<td>$53,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Analyst</td>
<td>$54,657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Policy Planner</td>
<td>$52,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Consultant</td>
<td>$91,068</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PayScale.com

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Website: www.csi.cuny.edu/departments/psga/

The Chairperson for the Political Science Department is Dr. Richard Flanagan, Professor. Dr. Flanagan is available at Richard.Flanagan@csi.cuny.edu or 718-982-2834. Prospective students who would like further details about programs offered by the Department of Political Science and Global Affairs may contact Dr. Flanagan.