This tool will provide you with the information you need for academic planning and connect you with experiences to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that employers are seeking.

**POLITICAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA**

Political Studies (also known as Political Science) examines the dynamics of human interaction in which individuals and groups compete to achieve their goals. The study of politics involves a consideration of the interactions between the individual, the state, government, public affairs and public policy.

As a political studies student in the Faculty of Arts, you will explore the dynamics of these interactions in the context of competing visions, values and interests, particularly in the pursuit of varying public goals, including the quest for political power and the control of government. The department of political studies has many opportunities for you to explore, with the ability to specialize in one of the following areas: political theory, Canadian politics, international relations, comparative politics or public administration.

**SKILLS YOU WILL GAIN FROM POLITICAL STUDIES**

- An enhanced awareness of the political process, a greater sense of personal involvement and an increased willingness to accept the responsibilities of democratic citizenship
- The ability to collect, analyze and interpret data using statistical analysis and make reasoned judgments on the basis of the available data
- The ability to think critically and understand political problems and systems according to concepts of political theory
- The ability to communicate effectively and express your ideas both verbally and in writing

**WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?**

Industries such as education, government, law and politics value a political studies degree in combination with the employability skills that are highly sought after by employers. These include:

- Oral and written communication
- Analytical skills
- Numeracy and data use
- Problem solving
- Teamwork
- Digital technology
- Information management
- Continuous learning

Gain skills through your classroom education by taking advantage of experiential education opportunities.

**WHAT IS EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION?**

Experiential education will enhance your classroom education by giving you hands-on experience that will resonate with employers. The University of Manitoba offers a wide variety of programs designed to facilitate your personal growth, connect you with others and ignite your active engagement in the local and global community.

**EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Work experience opportunities
- International student exchanges, international internships and travel study
- Local and international service-learning opportunities
- Undergraduate research and entrepreneurship
- Leadership and volunteer opportunities

The Political Studies Compass provides you with suggestions of how and when to use opportunities to make the most of your university experience. You may follow these guidelines or map out your own route.
## Political Studies Compass

### Academic Success

#### Year 1

**Course requirements:**
- 6 credit hours in political studies courses numbered at or above the 1000 level

**To do this year:**
1. Know the requirements for your degree. Meet with an academic advisor in the Faculty of Arts to help you plan your program.
2. If you need academic support, visit the Academic Learning Centre for workshops or to meet with a learning skills instructor.

**Year 2**

**Course requirements:**
- Honours: POLS 2000, 2040, 2070 and 2110
- Advanced: 6 credit hours POLS at the 2000 level, plus additional required courses at or above the 2000 level

**To do this year:**
1. Should you follow a 3- or 4-year plan? Meet with an academic advisor and career consultant to map out your options.
2. Consider choosing a second language for your minor to enhance your employability prospects upon graduation.

**Year 3**

**Course requirements:**
- Honours: POLS 3950 plus 21 credit hours POLS at the 3000 level

**To do this year:**
1. Meet with a political studies advisor for honour program approval.
2. Confirm eligibility to graduate with an academic advisor and declare intent to graduate in Aurora (3-year plan).

**Year 4**

**Course requirements:**
- Honours: 18 credit hours in POLS at the 4000 level
- Advanced: 6 credit hours POLS at the 4000 level, plus additional required courses at or above the 2000 level

**To do this year:**
1. Meet with a political studies advisor for honour program approval.
2. Confirm eligibility to graduate with an academic advisor and declare intent to graduate in Aurora.

### Career Tips

#### Start planning your career:
1. Meet with a career consultant to generate career ideas based on your interests, values, personality and skills.
2. Research occupations that match your skills and interests.
3. Set up a careerCONNECT account to view job postings and register for workshops and events.
4. Register for the Co-Curricular Record (CCR), an official record of university-approved activities.

#### Make professional connections:
1. Join the Career Mentor Program to learn from professionals.
2. Attend career fairs to connect with employers.
3. Become a student affiliate with the Canadian or American Political Science Association.
4. Attend the annual Political Studies Students’ Conference.

#### Investigate your career options:
1. Look at sample job postings to ensure you have the qualifications upon graduation.
2. Develop employability and essential skills sought by employers.
3. Create a LinkedIn profile to network with professionals.
4. Explore supports available to entrepreneurs for business planning such as the Business Start Program.

#### Consider continuing your studies:
- Continue or start research: Participate in the Undergraduate Research Poster Competition and/or submit a paper to the Manitoba Policy Perspectives Journal.
- Check out student job opportunities with: Canadian Border Services Agency, Global Affairs Canada or UMSU Elections.
- Search for job opportunities online: Check out Devex, Job Bank, Find My Job, Indeed or other search engines. Use your networks and connections: Inquire about unadvertised job openings (the “hidden job market”).

### Link experiences to your career interests.

#### Options include:
- Student groups including Undergraduate Political Studies Students’ Association, Model United Nations, Arts Student Body Council or UMSU.
- Join the University of Manitoba Volunteer Program or Student Leadership Development Program.
- Student work opportunities including Work-Study, STEP Services or Federal Student Work Experience Program.
- Experiential education opportunities such as Alternative Reading/Week Winnipeg.

### Cultural Opportunities
- **Develop global career skills and expand international learning:** Consider an international student exchange or Travel Study program, Alternative Reading Week Belize, Students Without Borders internship. My World-Abroad or SWAP for a “working holiday.”


### Sample Careers with an Undergraduate Degree and Related Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B.A. Honours</th>
<th>4 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.A. Advanced</td>
<td>4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.A. General</td>
<td>3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Assistant Deputy Minister**
- **Border Services Office**
- **Business Analyst**
- **Campus Manager**
- **Citizenship/Immigration Officer**
- **Communications Analyst**
- **Community Organizer**
- **Community Relations Officer**
- **Development Officer**
- **Elections Officer**
- **Foreign Service Officer**
- **Government Relations Advisor**
- **Grant Writer**
- **Human Rights Worker**
- **Intelligence Officer**
- **Legislative Assistant**
- **Market Research Analyst**
- **Military NGO Program Officer**
- **Political Lobbyist**
- **Political Aide**
- **Politician**

### Other Education

- **Journalist**
- **Lawyer**
- **Legislative Drafter**
- **Parliamentary Budget Officer**
- **Policy Analyst**
- **Political Scientist**
- **Teacher**
- **United Nations Officer**
- **University Professor**
- **Urban and Regional Planner**

### Options Requiring Other Education

- **Prepare to work in a multicultural environment:** Visit Canada’s National Research Centre for Truth and Reconciliation on campus or register for a Workplace Cultural Competence Workshop through Extended Education.
- **Check out new graduate programs such as the UN Young Professionals Program.**

### Note: This resource is meant as a guide to provide suggestions throughout your time at university. Develop a plan and timeline that suits you best. Make intentional choices for your courses and work experiences.

*Please refer to the Academic Calendar for a complete list of program requirements.*