

Political Scientists

SOC: 19-3094 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$139,380

Median Salary

6,500

Employment

-3.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Master's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

7.5/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	6.2/10	Investigative	9.4/10
Artistic	5.6/10	Social	6.4/10
Enterprising	4.8/10	Conventional	6.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Adaptability, Communication skills, Creativity, Critical-thinking skills, Decision-making skills, Detail oriented, Interpersonal skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Political Scientists research and analyze **political systems, policies, and public issues**. They study government operations, conduct surveys, and develop theories to inform policy-making and public understanding. Their work is critical in research, government, education, and advisory roles.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy research, analysis, and understanding societal and political systems.

What Do Political Scientists Do?

These professionals study political trends, evaluate policies, and provide insights to government, organizations, or the public.

Common responsibilities include:

- Researching political issues, public policies, and government programs
- Collecting and analyzing data from surveys, polls, or historical records
- Developing and testing theories related to governance and social behavior
- Writing reports, publications, and policy briefs
- Advising government officials, organizations, or the public
- Presenting findings through lectures, seminars, or media commentary
- Collaborating with academics, researchers, and policymakers

Key Areas of Political Science

Political scientists may specialize in areas such as policy, international relations, or political theory:

- Policy Analysis: Evaluating and recommending public policies
- Comparative Politics: Studying political systems across countries
- International Relations: Researching diplomacy, conflict, and global governance
- Public Opinion and Surveys: Conducting polling and analyzing societal attitudes
- Political Theory and Ethics: Exploring philosophical and ethical aspects of politics

Skills and Abilities Needed

Political scientists combine analytical, research, and communication skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires advanced education and research experience:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): Political science, international relations, or related field
- Master's or Doctoral Degree (common): Advanced research, policy analysis, or specialization
- Research Experience: Internships, assistantships, or field research
- Professional Development: Workshops, seminars, or publications in political science
- Continuous Learning: Staying updated on political trends, legislation, and global affairs

Where Do Political Scientists Work?

They are employed in settings that require research, policy analysis, or advisory expertise:

- Government Agencies
- Research Institutions and Think Tanks
- Universities and Academic Institutions
- International Organizations

- Nonprofit and Advocacy Groups

Work environments include offices, research labs, academic settings, and field sites.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires analytical, research, and communication skills. Political scientists must interpret complex data, evaluate policies, and communicate findings clearly to diverse audiences.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy research, analysis, and critical thinking
- Are detail-oriented and analytical
- Can communicate complex information effectively
- Are interested in politics, government, and public policy
- Want a career influencing policy, research, or public understanding

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in political science, history, economics, and statistics
- Participate in research projects, internships, or volunteer work in government or advocacy
- Develop skills in data analysis, writing, and public speaking
- Stay informed on current events, legislation, and political systems
- Explore graduate programs or certifications in political science or public policy

Political scientists research, analyze, and interpret political systems and public policies, providing insights that guide government, organizations, and public understanding.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/political-scientists.htm>