

What can I do with my degree in International and Comparative Politics (ICP)? International and Comparative politics Department welcomes students who have desire and passion in studying wide range of politics. If you still in doubt, thinking of your choice whether you made right decision or wrong, you are not alone. All freshmen experience the same feeling about their major, because the fields of study will lead you towards to your future. If you have interest in politics, than you made a right decision. Most of the people think that ICP majors can only go to political schools or become a legislative aide. Or there can be thoughts about that interest in a career that you think is hard to break into with a Political Science major. But the statistics and the evidences show that this is not the case. Political Sciences, both recent graduates and seasoned professionals, are doing in the world of work. Study in International and Comparative politics can help you develop an in-depth understanding of the distribution of political power.

Your knowledge in political science can be used in many ways. Politics itself is a struggle for power over other people, groups, and nations; as a social process that determines who has what kinds of authority and how this affects particular communities; as a series of conversations or disputations about what counts as a “public problem” and how to address public problems. Political outcomes shape the choices we can make as individuals and the fates of communities, nations, and states. It is very important task to be the link between people and the government. International and Comparative Politics degree in from an accredited university can help you prepare for career in various fields of the local and global affairs. This program at AUCA welcomes students who care about politics and want to reason critically about political outcomes and debates at the local, national, and international levels. The program intends to inform responsible participation in local and global public affairs. It also prepares students for work and/or further study in political science, international affairs, public policy, law, cultural studies, and related fields.

Majoring in ICP you will have the access to a broad range of career options and job opportunities. Students of ICP can apply their knowledge and critical thinking skills in political analysis as well as public policy analysis. Opportunities can be found through a number of methods, including jobsites, networking and speculative applications. You can also pursue further education in any social science field, as well as public administration or law. The graduates of ICP department can find the jobs in various non-profit organizations, in the scientific and academic fields. The typical Employers are:

- In local level: government, nonprofit organizations, research institutes or think-tanks, private companies including foreign corporations, educational institutions.
- In regional and global level: international organizations, international NGOs, research institutes, embassies, multinational corporations. To the list of typical employers we can include UN (all branches), World Bank, all other international and intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, big corporations that need someone who understands public policy relevant to their interests (ex: mining companies would need someone who understands government policy related to mining, environment, etc).

One of the jobs simple examples for ICP graduates can be- teaching. ICP majors might also find jobs teaching students at the universities. They can teach 100 level courses such as Introduction to Political Studies, Introduction to International Relations or they could work with more specific

subjects, such as Central Asian Politics, American government and etc. Teachers at the elementary and middle school levels were expected to see around average job growth from 2012-2022, the BLS reports, while job growth for high school teachers is expected to be at a slower-than-average rate of 6% during that time. Employment opportunities for political science teachers at the college level were predicted to increase 15% from 2012-2022, which is slightly faster than average¹.

If your aim is to work directly within political field, it is important to build up a portfolio of work and gain as much relevant experience as possible. During the 4 academic years you will have the chance to enhance and gain some skills that would be useful for your further carrier development. It can be:

- good grades in your transcript (high GPA)
- honors and recognition
- language skills (In order to work in UN, you have to know at least 2 permanent languages)
- computer software skills;
- volunteer experience;
- Internship experience;
- Oral and written communication;
- Decision-making;
- Problem solving;
- Analytic thinking;
- Research skills;
- Leadership abilities
- Ability to interact with diverse populations;
- Ability to develop and market ideas;
- Understanding of community needs;
- Work well under pressure
- Ability to collaborate/work as part of a team;
- Also build good relationships with your professors, colleges, and superiors at work, so that they can write strong recommendation letters for you, which would influence to your further study.

If you're interested in pursuing a career in politics or a related field, earning a graduate program in political science could be a great starting point for those seeking to enter this challenging and ever-changing field. Considering your career plan, your academic progress, interests and the degree you have taken you can decide where to continue your degree. Every step that you will do for further study will enhance your skills and increase your chances of employment.

Further Study- Options and examples for further study for ICP students are MA, MPA, MS and PhD in political science, public administration, international studies, international

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition*, High School Teachers, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/high-school-teachers.htm> (visited December 21, 2015).

development (most universities in the world have at least one of those majors). Graduate students in MA or PhD programs continue education and conduct field research.

For example Ph.D. program for political science is to advance the body of knowledge in the discipline. Students in a Ph.D. program in political science will undertake extensive research and conduct experiments to work towards developing new theories or applications of political theory. Different programs may offer different advantages such as a small student to faculty ratio, the opportunity to teach, or faculty who share your research interests.

The list of universities which offer further study options in Politics and International Studies you can find on website: www.topuniversities.com

Political science is an important basis of humanistic studies, and it has been a concern of intellectuals since the times of Aristotle. Studying political science can prepare you for various careers that require highly developed skills in both analysis and communication. Some of the career paths one can follow include political campaigns, government careers at local and national level, journalism, business, law and international organizations. Studying political science is not only useful for employment in governmental or local administration jobs, but especially for life as well. Studying political science can deepen understanding and knowledge of the way the world works, people think, interconnectedness of your surrounding. You will think about these questions often. You will be able to answer them better than you could otherwise thanks to an understanding of the Presidency and Congress, international relations, political ideologies, and political theory. The knowledge and critical skills gained from the study of politics will enable you to be a more rational citizen, a more constructive participant in public affairs, and a better professional in any vocation that deals with the public domain, including important positions in corporations, government and non-profit organizations.