DESCRIPTION
Political science and government majors study the systems people set up to organize their societies, from neighborhoods to nations. Prospective future industries include political science, law, public policy, and related fields, and for careers in government, business, law, research, teaching, or journalism. The political science department at MIT sponsors an internship program in which students work in governmental agencies, legislative offices, community associations, international organizations, and advocacy groups at all levels. Undergraduate majors and minors in the Political Science department receive a personalized, hands-on education with small classes and seminars.

SKILLS
Strong communication and presentation abilities
Ability to conduct thorough analysis on data sets
International and culturally sensitive perspective
Critical-thinking and problem-solving abilities

POSSIBLE FUTURE POSITIONS
- **Policy analyst**: Change, adjust, or implement new public policies, regulations, and laws either directly in government or for non-government organizations which extensively lobby for policy adjustments.
- **Political consultant**: Assist potential political candidates develop media strategies, explain their platforms to the public, create advertisements, respond to opponents or engage in fundraising. Other consultants may work in research or polling.
- **Legislative assistant**: Draft and edit legislation, including bills, rules or other items. Generate ideas for legislation and writing speeches to introduce new legislation to a committee or legislature, such as the U.S. Congress or a state legislature.

CAREER INDUSTRY EXAMPLES

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SAMPLE EMPLOYERS

- Bain & Company
- Charles River Associates
- U.S. Army
INSIDE COURSE 17

17 Political Science Undergraduates: 11

DEPARTMENT FAVORITES

17.801 Political Science Scope and Methods
Introduces principles of empirical and theoretical analysis in political science through research projects currently conducted in the department. Different department faculty lead modules that introduce students to major research questions and different ways of examining those questions. Emphasizes how this research in progress relates to larger themes, and how researchers confront obstacles to inference in political science.

17.803 Political Science Laboratory
Introduces students to the conduct of political research using quantitative methodologies. The methods are examined in the context of specific political research activities like public opinion surveys, voting behavior, Congressional behavior, comparisons of political processes in different countries, and the evaluation of public policies.

17.317 U.S. Social Policy
Explores historical development and contemporary politics of the American welfare state. Examines interactions among political institutions, elites, the media, and the mass public. Emphasis on reciprocal relationship between policy designs and public opinion/political action. Investigates broad spectrum of government policies that shape well-being, opportunity and political influence, including welfare, social security, health care, education, and tax policy.

COURSE17-FRIENDLY LABS

Political Methodology Lab
MIT Election Data and Science Lab (MEDSL)
MIT Governance Lab

Political Experiments Research Lab (PERL)
Poverty, Violence, and Development Working Group

GET INVOLVED WITH COURSE 17

College Republican Club
Debate Team
Model United Nations

Democrats @ MIT
The Forum

UPOP is here to help you! Come talk to us in 1-123 or email us at upopstudentprogram@mit.edu