

Political Science Alumni Questionnaire

Prepared by: St. Olaf Political Science Department

The St. Olaf Political Science department is gathering information this year about what we do well and what needs improvement. We are asking recent alums (including you!) to give us feedback. Please take a few minutes to answer this online questionnaire. We want to know not only how we are doing, but how YOU are doing as well!

Your responses will be anonymous, and no one will be able to identify you in any reports we prepare from these results. We hope you will benefit from the chance to reflect back on your experience as a major in this department; we know future majors will benefit from what we learn from you. Thank you very much for your time!

Please tell us about your experiences since graduation:

1. What year did you graduate?

2. Which of the following have you done since graduation? *Check all that apply:*

- Enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program
- Worked full-time in a volunteer organization (e.g. Peace Corps, Lutheran Volunteer Corps)
- Worked part-time in a paid position
- Worked full-time in a paid position
- Other

3. If you enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program, what degree(s) have you pursued? *Check all that apply:*

- Additional Bachelor's (BA, BS, BSN, etc.)
- Master's (MA, MS, MDiv, MBA, MSW, etc.)
- Doctorate (PhD, EdD, DBA, DMA, ThD, etc.)
- Medical (MD, DO, DDS, DVM, etc.)
- Law (JD, SJD, etc.)
- Education certificate or student teaching
- Other

4. If you enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program, please provide the name(s) of the institution(s) where you pursued your degree(s) and the actual or anticipated date(s) of your graduation.

5. If you have completed or are pursuing a master's degree or a Ph.D., please indicate your field of study.

6. If you have worked part-time or full-time in a paid position, please indicate the type of organization in which you have worked for the longest period of time:

- Private sector business firm or organization
- Non-profit organization
- Federal, state, or local government
- Military service
- Self-employed
- Other

7. Please elaborate on your work experience since graduation.

8. What are your long-term career goals?

9. In what ways, if any, have you been civically engaged since graduation? *Please check all that apply:*

- I follow politics and/or public affairs regularly through print or electronic media
- I discuss politics and/or public affairs with others
- I send messages to elected representatives, newspapers, or blogs
- I have volunteered
- I have held a leadership positions in a volunteer organization
- I have contributed to political campaigns or organizations trying to affect public policy
- I have worked on campaigns
- I have run for public office

10. Please elaborate on your civic or community engagement since graduation.

Please tell us about your experiences as a political science major:

11. Did you intend to major in political science when you arrived at St. Olaf? If not, what convinced you to choose this major?

12. To what extent did your experience as a political science major contribute to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in each of the following areas?

	Considerably	Moderately	Somewhat	Very little
Critical thinking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective writing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Effective speaking and listening	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The ability to conduct effective research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The ability to make informed and persuasive arguments and to analyze the arguments of others

13. To what extent did your experience as a political science major contribute to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in each of the following areas?

	Considerably	Moderately	Somewhat	Very little
Capacity for and commitment to lifelong learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding of U.S. politics and public affairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding of international affairs and global issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding of diversity and diverse perspectives on politics and public affairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The ability to be a knowledgeable, thoughtful, and effective citizen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. How well did your experience as a political science major prepare you to:

	Very well	Well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not applicable
Pursue graduate study	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use your liberal arts proficiencies (thinking, writing, speaking, etc.) in the workplace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engage effectively in civic or community life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use your liberal arts proficiencies (thinking, writing, speaking, etc.) in your personal life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serve in a leadership position	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. Please describe one or two experiences during your time as a political science major that were particularly effective in contributing to your learning or personal development in any of the above areas.

16. With the perspective you have gained since graduation, what recommendations do you have for improving the major so our graduates are even better prepared for graduate school, the workplace, and civic/community life?

17. If you have any specific suggestions for particular courses, subfields, or major requirements, please share them here. We are especially interested in feedback about Political Science 220, Analyzing Politics and Policy (the required course in political science research methods that precedes enrollment in Level III seminars).

Thank you very much for completing this questionnaire!