Tom White, ’14  
PLS major  
First: Director, internship program, Grand Central Tech  
Now: Associate account strategist, Google  

“I majored in PLS in order to learn how to think, read, write, understand, and articulate — to equip myself with those tools necessary to lead a life worth living. From survey course to seminar, the variety of courses and class types in PLS fosters a mental rigor that forces students to stretch their intellectual limits. From mulling over the musings of Machiavelli to debating the deliberations of Dante, students are encouraged to grapple with ideas, professors, and their peers to master the art form that is critical thinking.

“Now, I put my PLS education to use every single day. The latticework of mental models that I garnered has served me very well. I have found that the ability to deconstruct complexities, to communicate clearly and eloquently, and to synthesize information in a succinct, lucid manner is a luxury, not a commodity, in the professional world. By majoring in PLS, I was ahead of the pack before the race had even begun.

“By annexing and reflecting upon the knowledge of the greatest writers, theologians, musicians, and historians of all time, I have found tremendous solace. Pursuing PLS solidified my belief that internal peace and wellbeing are enhanced by the accumulation of knowledge and different philosophies. Whether meditating on the Confessions of St. Augustine or ruminating on the application of Stoicism to modern living, I always find some way to make use of my past readings in order to live a more wholesome life.”

Study everything. Do anything.