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Pathways to Public Policy Careers for those interested and looking for global opportunities

Public policy is made when a governing body attempts to address an issue of widespread public concern, such as health care. The process often runs in cycles and can take years.

■After new laws are created, Policy Implementation occurs, often involving federal agencies, state and local governments, bureaucratic entities, and NGOs. Courts get involved as laws and policies are challenged on a variety of fronts.

■Analysis and Evaluation occurs throughout the cycle and involves many players. Policies may be changed — and the cycle begins again.

What is the best advice for someone pursuing a career in public policy?

People often find their way to public policy careers because of an

interest in a particular substantive area. Public policy work can be found in virtually any subject area.

Your ears should perk up when you hear the words “Center for,” “Institute,” “Association,” and “Foundation” because they represent potential employers.

Public policy majors work in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, such as a government agency or advocacy group.

Continuing education, such as a certification or fellowship, can also advance your career as someone interested in public policy and politics.

A career in public policy offers graduates the opportunity to craft and enact policies that promote public well-being.

Many schools offer specialized programs in public policy that blend political science, sociology, and data analytics.

Careers in public policy depend heavily on empirical research and data. Build skills in data analysis, critical thinking, and decision-making. It prepares you to address community problems and concerns and evaluate how local, state, or federal policies can help the situation.

Improve your skills and update your resume with involvement in a legal clinic, community volunteer work, specialized moot court competitions, legislative internships, social media campaigns, nonprofit jobs or volunteering, and conferences.

You can also publish articles.

Before you start thinking about a job in politics and public policy, consider your values and ethics. Most people who work in politics and public policy work on issues and for people they support.

You can work in the capacity of a:

Campaign Manager

Communications Coordinator

Advancement or development manager

Policy research assistant/associate/fellow

Program manager

Government relations advocate

Community outreach manager

Assistant professor/lecturer

Community relations manager

Government relations manager

Program analyst

Program manager

Lobbyist

Pollster

Political Consultant

Media Strategist

Policy Analyst

Legislative Aide

Chief of Staff

Intern/Volunteer

Public Policy Director

Market Research Analyst

Public Relations Specialist .

Where can you work:

Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools

You can work as professors at colleges and universities. You can also pursue administrative positions, using your analytical skills to bolster university operations & improve student retention.

Local Government

Public policy professionals work for publicly funded committees, departments, & agencies that oversee specific logistical & political functions. Careers include chief administrative officer, urban planner, and community liaison.

Social Advocacy Organizations

Public policy analysts help these nonprofit organizations create effective community awareness campaigns. They also lobby lawmakers and government agencies for policy changes.

You can conduct policy research; do advocacy work on specific policy issues including policy management, development, and communication; serve on government relations team; or be entrepreneurs starting their own nonprofit or non-governmental organization (NGO).

Non-political options within the government sector

This can range from program analysis, program management and administration, legal analysis to public relations and communications and policy development for local, state, national, and international government agencies.

Scientific Research and Development Services

Researchers work for government agencies, nonprofits, and private businesses. They conduct studies to gauge public opinion about specific issues and use their findings to facilitate policy development and program implementation.

Federal Government

The fed Govt employs public policy analysts in civil service, military, and political appointments. Professionals who work for the government usually specialize in an area of public policy like housing, agriculture, economic development, or foreign affairs.

What Skills are Employers in the Public Policy Field Seeking?

■Communication, particularly public speaking. Strong communication skills help those who enter a public policy career convey information clearly and persuasively, whether it be written, orally, or through multimedia.

■Strong knowledge of legal, political, social, economic, and technological issues.

■The ability to perform research to collect or analyze data, as well as synthesize information.

■Strategic decision-making and the ability to work independently on multiple tasks concurrently.

Resources to Help Find a Public Policy Job:

Advocacy organizations

Labour unions

Think tanks

Foreign Policy Association

NIRA's World Directory of Think Tanks: Directory of more than 500 think tanks from 100 different countries. (https://t.co/NNJG2fFIdc)

Public Affairs Council (https://t.co/R1s87nJaPC)

Foreign Policy Association (https://t.co/lkLb8TYb0B)

Hill Zoo (https://t.co/ijZFFj0dv8)

Public Policy Handbook (https://t.co/NNJo3myqmM)

Idealist (https://t.co/dhI0y37KCV)

PSLawNet (https://t.co/3SLnHNtF8J)

Roll Call (https://t.co/l3dHs2bFKH)

TheHill (https://t.co/Ejbtd0k9Ti)

• USAJobs(https://t.co/8Vw2VeEEpH)