



Economics Career Development Office

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

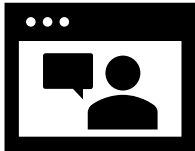
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Government & Politics Career Guide

About Government & Politics

Government agencies and politicians use economics to understand the consequences of their decisions and to make informed choices that will promote economic growth and prosperity. Economic theories can be used to analyze the effects of different tax policies, to determine how much to spend on infrastructure, and to set interest rates. Additional focus areas of careers can be forecasting future economic trends and developing plans to mitigate the effects of recessions and other economic downturns, providing policymakers with the data and analysis they need to make informed decisions, running operations for government agencies or political campaigns, and developing and implementing policies.

A variety of roles are available at the local, state, and federal levels of government, as well as with elected officials or those running for office.



Why should you work in public service?

[Watch this short "Why Pursue Public Service" video to learn about working for the federal government](#)

Recommended Courses

Core Electives in the major

- Econ 400 or 410 Intro Econometrics
- Econ 441 Analytical Public Finance
- Econ 455 Behavioral Economics
- Econ 460 Economic Forecasting
- Econ 475 Economics of Growth
- Econ 522 Law and Economics

Applied Electives in the major

- Econ 370 Economics of Poverty and Inequality
- Econ 420 Urban and Regional Economics
- Econ 449 Government and Natural Resources
- Econ 465 The American Economy since 1865

Suggested Courses Outside of the Department of Economics

- Civil Society & Community Studies 125 Community & Social Change
- Political Science 104 Intro to American Politics and Government
- Political Science 205 Intro to State Government
- Political Science 206 Intro to Political Psychology
- Political Science 305 Elections and Voting Behavior

- Political Science 306 American Political Parties
- Public Affairs & Public Policy 285 Strategic Public Management
- Urban & Regional Planning 520 Community Economic Analysis

Relevant Majors & Certificates

Majors:

- [Political Science](#) (L&S)
- [Community & Nonprofit Leadership](#) (SoHE)
- [Legal Studies](#) (L&S)
- [International Studies](#) (L&S)

Certificates:

- [Political Science](#) (L&S)
- [Political Economy, Philosophy, and Politics Certificate](#) (L&S)
- [Public Policy](#) (L&S)

Relevant Student Organizations & Involvement

- [Political Science Student Association](#)
- [Leading Women of Tomorrow – UW Madison](#)
- [College Democrats of UW-Madison](#)
- [College Republicans of UW-Madison](#)
- [Federal Reserve Challenge](#)
- [Economics Student Association](#)

Search <https://win.wisc.edu/organizations> for additional student organizations.

Sample Job Titles

- Budget Analyst
- Fundraising or Campaign Coordinator
- Field Organizer
- Policy & Program Analyst
- Auditor
- Regulatory Specialist
- Financial Specialist or Analyst
- Data Analyst
- Risk Management Specialist
- Student Trainee Economist

Job and Internship Search Resources

- [Wisconsin in Washington, DC Internship Program](#) – program through UW to spend the summer or a semester interning and taking classes in Washington, DC
- [Government, Policy, International Affairs, & Law Career Community](#) through SuccessWorks – subscribe to their newsletter [HERE](#)
- [Internship Board for Political Science Department](#)
- [Government Employment Resources](#) – from La Follette School of Public Affairs
- [USAJOBS](#) – job search site for the majority of Federal Government roles *Make sure your resume is in the correct “federal resume format”. Learn more about this specific format [here](#)
- [Go Government](#) – helpful resources for applying to Federal Government jobs
- [State of Wisconsin Jobs](#) & [State of Wisconsin Student Diversity Internship Program](#)
- [Emily’s List](#) – sign-up for job newsletters and submit your resume to the Job Bank
- [Handshake](#) - find internships and jobs, as well as info sessions and workshops on campus

- [Indeed](#) – search for internships and jobs by job title, company name, city, state and more
- [LinkedIn](#) – create a professional social media profile to connect with peers, colleagues, and employers; follow companies of interest to learn about job postings and news.

Exploratory and Diversity Programs:

- [City of Madison AASPIRE Summer Internship Program](#) – other cities may have similar programs!
- [Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Leadership Institute](#) and [Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute](#) offers internships, scholarships, and leadership trainings.
- [State of Wisconsin Diversity Internship Program](#) offers numerous internship opportunities for students interested in state government. Other states may have similar programs!
- [Wisconsin Women’s Network](#) offers opportunities for students through their Mentorship Program and Policy Institute
- [The Sadie Collective](#) offers a variety of programs focused on the success of Black women in economics and related fields (finance, policy, etc.) including an Exploring Career Pathways Conference and Research Symposium.
- [LGBTQ+ Victory Institute](#) offers internships, fellowships and trainings to identify and prepare a diverse pipeline of LGBTQ+ leaders to advance equality through public service.

Gain Technical Skills

- [DoIt Software Training for Students](#) - Free workshops including Microsoft Excel, Python and more!
- [LinkedIn Learning](#) - Free access to online trainings approved by LinkedIn
- [SSCC Training Classes](#) - Free classes on various software including Stata and R

Additional Resources for Career Exploration

- [Economic Career Development Office](#) – get career guidance, resume and cover letter reviews, and interview tips
- [Exploring Government Careers](#) from SuccessWorks Career Communities
- [Guide to Working on Political Campaigns](#) from Harvard Law School