



PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

TEN REASONS TO WORK FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1) MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The work of government employees impacts the lives of every American and the lives of people around the world. Federal employees can play a vital role in addressing pressing issues, from homelessness to homeland security. Students interested in working in government can engage in high-impact work, such as helping disrupt the laundering of billions of dollars derived from illicit U.S. drug deals.

2) GREAT BENEFITS / COMPETITIVE PAY

Average government salaries are competitive with the private and nonprofit sectors. Recent graduates can expect a starting salary from \$32,415 to \$42,631 a year. Pay can also increase fairly quickly for top candidates with experience and a strong education. Federal benefits, including health insurance, retirement and vacation, are extremely competitive with, if not superior to, other sectors.

3) THE GOVERNMENT IS HIRING

By 2015, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) projects that more than 550,000 federal employees, one third of the entire full-time permanent workforce, will leave the government. In 2013, 76,735 new employees were hired government-wide.

4) LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Federal opportunities are not only found in the D.C. area. 84 percent of federal government jobs are outside of Washington D.C. If students are interested in international job opportunities, more than 50,000 federal employees work abroad.

5) JOBS FOR EVERY MAJOR

Working in the federal government is not just for political science majors. In fact, 28.4 percent of federal employees work in STEM fields. There are federal jobs for every interest and skill, from art history to zoology.

6) OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Federal employees have many opportunities for career advancement in government. An internal Merit Promotion Program helps ensure that new employees succeeding in their job have easy access to information about job openings within government. The government also offers excellent training and development opportunities and has human resources personnel to help connect current employees with these opportunities.

7) INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING WORK

Today's government workers are leading and innovating on issues such as developing vaccines for deadly diseases, fighting sexual and racial discrimination, and keeping our massive systems of transportation safe.

8) WORK/LIFE BALANCE

Flexible work schedules, including telework, are a major plus for those with busy schedules or long commutes. Competitive benefits also include generous vacation time combined with federal holidays and sick leave. All of these packaged together make government an attractive employer for students looking to successfully balance their work and personal lives.

9) JOB SECURITY

Government work is steady and secure, an attractive selling point, especially during difficult economic times.

10) THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN HELP PAY FOR SCHOOL LOANS

Some federal agencies can help pay back up to \$10,000 per year in student loans, up to a total of \$60,000.