A career in public policy involves influencing the direction of national policy by working with lawmakers, creating and advising government programs, or serving as an expert within a specific field. There are opportunities for students of all majors in local, state, and federal government. Federal jobs are available in every state, and only 15% of federal jobs are actually located in Washington D.C. The field of law encompasses the areas of public interest, policy, government, business, human rights, international relations, medicine, sports, and more.

RESOURCES AT BOSTON COLLEGE

- Rappaport Center for Law and Public Policy
- Bellarmine Law Society
- AHANA Pre-Law Association
- Boston College Democrats
- Boston College Republicans
- BC Model UN
- Eagle Political Society

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Research & Data Analysis
- Critical Thinking
- Public Speaking
- Knowledge of Legal, Political, or Public Affairs Issues
- Negotiating Conflicts
- Advocacy and Persuasion

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & JOB SEARCH SITES

- USA Jobs: usajobs.gov
- NIRA’s World Directory of Think Tanks: nira.or.jp/past/ice/nwdtt/2005/
- Law School Admissions Council: lsac.org
- ABA Legal Career Central: abalcc.org
- Go Government: gogovernment.org
- American Association of Political Consultants: Theaapc.org
- MassCareers: mass.gov
- FBI: fbijobs.gov
- CIA: cia.gov/careers
- City of Boston: boston.gov
- State of New York: ny.gov/services/employment
- State of California: jobs.ca.gov

JOB SEARCH & INTERVIEW PROCESS

Most jobs within Government will only be posted on the specific agency’s website, for a limited time (up to 10 days). If you are interested in jobs within local, state, or federal government, subscribe to job alerts within your specific agency of interest for the most up-to-date information. Law firms will post openings on their own websites, as well as EagleLink. Many students interested in pursuing the legal field work as a Paralegal or Legal Assistant for 1-2 years following their undergraduate education.

Employers within government, law, & public policy tend to hire on a just-in-time basis, which means that students generally should not expect to interview until the spring semester of their senior year. Most organizations within this industry cluster also offer unpaid summer internships which allow students to gain exposure and experience in the field.
JOB DESCRIPTIONS WITHIN GOVERNMENT, LAW, AND PUBLIC POLICY

Attorney - Attorneys advise and represent individuals, businesses, and government agencies on legal issues and disputes.

Campaign Worker - Political campaign workers work to win elections. Most campaigns make use of volunteers in entry-level roles. Paid campaign workers may take on a variety of job functions such as press and public relations, polling, opposition research, fundraising, logistical organizing, etc.

Lobbyist - Lobbyists contact members of Congress and other elected officials to persuade them to support legislation favorable to the interest of their client and study proposed legislation to determine possible effect on clients.

Policy Analyst - Policy analysts work by trying to change, adjust, or implement new public policies, regulations, and laws.

Congressional Aide - Congressional aides perform support work for senators and representatives, assisting with a variety of tasks, from administrative details to researching legislation.

Paralegal - Paralegals serve as legal administrative assistants. They routinely draft documents, file motions, interview clients, and prepare retainers.

Politician – Person holding or seeking office in government through an elective or appointed process. Politicians propose, support, or create laws or policies that govern the land, and by extension, its people.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS OF BC STUDENTS IN GOVERNMENT, LAW, AND PUBLIC POLICY

**Government and Public Policy**
- US Navy
- US Marines
- US Air Force
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- US Department of Justice
- American Enterprise Institute
- US Attorney’s Office
- Middlesex District Attorney’s Office
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office
- Committee for Public Counsel Services
- US Securities and Exchange Commission

**Law**
- Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
- Ropes & Gray LLP
- Goodwin Procter
- Mintz Levin
- Holland & Knight LLP
- Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Please Note: This handout is intended to be a sampling of resources. For additional information, please schedule an appointment through EagleLink.