

# EXPLORE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

## WHAT ARE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES?

The federal government is the nation's largest employer with about 1.9 million workers. Federal agencies will continue to need to hire new workers for "mission-critical" positions in every occupational field throughout the country and the world. State government employees do much of the same work as federal employees but focus on their local communities, working on issues including healthcare and education policy, travel and tourism, international trade affecting companies within the state, and working with the state's elected officials.

## QUALIFICATIONS

- There is a need for *every* skillset so all majors are welcome!
- Willingness to relocate - especially at the start of your career for some jobs
- Strong oral and written communication
- Patience with bureaucracy
- Clean criminal record

## KEY SKILLS

- Written and oral communication
- Leadership
- Ability to collaborate with others inside and outside the agency and at all pay grade levels
- Technical skills (related to the job)

## RELATED STUDENT ORGS

- International City / County Management Association – UW Chapter
- WUD Society and Politics

## HIRING TIMELINES

- Intelligence careers require 12-18 months from application to onboarding
- Other roles take 2-3 months from close of announcement to first day on the job

## TYPES OF EMPLOYERS

- Federal Agencies
- State Agencies
- County Agencies
- City Agencies
- Government Corporations

## INTERNSHIP TIPS

- Learn about Federal Pathways for paid federal internships; all others are unpaid but still offer great experiences
- City of Madison and State of WI offer paid ones through AASPIRE & SAAIP
- SuccessWorks scholarship for un- or low-paid internships in public service
- Intelligence agencies have very early cutoffs. Join the Facebook group to be "in-the-know" <http://go.wisc.edu/kbj5u8>

## SECURITY CLEARANCES

- All government agencies require basic background checks which include criminal history, drug use, etc.
- Top Secret clearances take 12-18 mos.