Careers: Government & Politics

The Government & Politics major combines philosophical and scientific concerns in its overall program as well as in specific courses. It emphasizes broad areas such as political development, policy analysis, social justice, political economy, conflict, and human rights.

Using information from the University of Maryland graduation survey, we have compiled details about GVPT majors, such as their post-graduation adventures. Review additional resources at the University Career Center @ BSOS Your Career webpage.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Titles/Industries of Recent Alumni (Sample)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explore career paths of GVPT majors with LinkedIn’s Alumni tool.</td>
<td>Note: Must have a LinkedIn account to access.</td>
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**Job Titles:**
Assistant Federal Content Manager
Assistant Legislative Correspondent
Campaign Manager
Chief of Staff
Communications Director & District
Economic Research Analyst
Federal Audit Associate
Field Director/Organizer
Finance Assistant
Government Account Representative
Government Relations Assistant
Legislative Aide
Legislative Correspondent
Legislative Director
Management Trainee
Policy Analyst
Program Analyst
Proposal Specialist
Public Policy and Government
    Relations Analyst
Public Policy Specialist
Regional Field Director
Regional Organizing Director
Research Assistant/Associate
Researcher
Visa Restrictions Program Assistant

**Organizations:**
Angela Alsobrooks for County Executive
Baron Public Affairs, LLC
Delegate Jazz Lewis
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Reserve System
Fors Marsh Group
Howard County, MD Government
Leadership Connect
Lift Up Houston PAC
Maryland Democratic Party
Maryland General Assembly
Maryland Republican Party
Montana Democratic Party
National Security Agency
National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service
States Attorney’s Office
U.S. Dept. of Energy
U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
U.S. Dept. of Justice
U.S. Dept. of State
U.S. Dept. of the Treasury
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Senate
U.S. Dept. of Justice Office of the Inspector General

**Entry tips:**
Federal opportunities:
- USAJobs
- Application tips

**Political internship tips:**
- There will be times of the year when Congress is not in session. August is a recess month; November & December of an election year can also be very slow.
- Fall and spring are generally less competitive than summer, thus giving some students an opportunity to stand out.

For detailed tips, visit Vault’s Guide to Politics, Public Policy, and Activism Jobs

Identify organizations and issues of interest:
- Policy issues, U.S. Department of State
- Major public policy organizations, U.S.
- Public policy issues by country
Nonprofit/Advocacy

Job Titles:
Development Assistant
Environmental Justice Coordinator
Fundraiser
Global Health Coordinator
Office Assistant
Project Leader
Public Outreach Officer
Stakeholder Relations Associate

Organizations:
Alliance to Save Energy
Critical Relief for Children Inc.
East Side House Settlement
National Council of Jewish Women
Save the Children US

Entry tips:
Volunteer/intern at organizations working on causes you believe in.

Apply for internships. Employers recruit full-time employees from their internship programs.

International Affairs

Job Titles:
Archivist
Assistant - Middle East and North Africa
China Power Project Intern
Data Assessor
International Affairs Specialist
International Cooperation Analyst
Interpreter
Mishelanu Program Manager
Program Coordinator
Research Assistant

Organizations:
Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
Chemonics International
Creative Associates International
Foundation for Law and International Affairs
ICF International
International Center for Religion and Diplomacy
 Israeli-American Council
Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare Japan
Open Data Watch
Pakistan Ministry of Health
Provincial Government of Sucumbios – Ecuador
Tahir Institute for Middle East Policy
Turkish American Steering Committee
World Bank Group, The

Entry tips:
Language skills are important in this field. Consider minoring in a language.

International Affairs Resources, highlights IA resource directories, repositories, and databases.

Locate tips from professionals working in the field in Careers4Terps (the Document Library is accessible to UMD students).

Sample topics:
- Chemonics
- Diplomacy
- Human Rights
- International Development
- International Humanitarian
- Public Policy
- U.S. Department of State

Guide to International Jobs in Government, by APSIA

International Career Guide, by APSIA

“As a government and politics student, the proximity of The University of Maryland to Washington, D.C. was an important factor for me in choosing the college I would attend. Interning on the Hill was an aspiration I’ve had since high school and I am eternally grateful to the donors of the Bright Futures Scholarship fund for helping me to achieve it.”

-GVPT Major, Class of 2017 (Intern, Congressman Andy Harris), Recipient of UMD’s Bright Futures Scholarship Spring 2016
**Law/Legal**

**Job Titles:**
- Administrative Assistant
- Background Investigator
- Case Assistant
- Immigration Paralegal
- Investigative Specialist
- Investigator
- Legal Administrative Assistant
- Legal Assistant
- Legal Secretary
- Paralegal/Paralegal Specialist
- Police Officer
- Program Analyst

**Organizations:**
- Covington & Burling LLP
- Edwards Neils PLLC
- Google
- Law Office of Luis C. Diaz
- Madison Associates
- Morrison & Foerster LLP
- New York County District Attorney's Office
- Ocean City Police Dept.
- Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia
- Quinn Emanuel
- Seyfarth Shaw LLP
- Trombly & Singer PLLC
- U.S. Department of Justice

**Entry tips:**
*Important qualities/skills generally include:* communication, interpersonal, organizational, research, analytical, speaking, problem solving and writing skills.

*Apply for internships.* Gaining experience in the field will test your interest and demonstrate interest to law school programs.

For detailed tips, visit Vault’s Guide to Law Careers. Access through Careers4Terps.

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**Fellowships/Gap Year Programs**

**Job Titles:**
- City Year Corps Member
- English Teacher (Korea)
- Intramural Research Training Award
- Mikva Fellow
- Peace Fellow
- Peace Corps Volunteer
- Spring Fellow
- Teaching Assistant Program in France

**Organizations:**
- AmeriCorps
- Council on International Educational Exchange
- First Focus
- National Institutes of Health
- Oceana
- Peace Corps
- TAPIF
- The Advocacy Project

**Entry tips:**
*Apply early.* Applications are sometimes open one year before the start date.

Demonstrate interest in the population or area of the fellowship through your past experiences on your resume.

- Fellowship opportunities
- Peace Corps - UMD Recruiter
- Gap year programs
### Consulting/Business Services

**Job Titles:**
- Accounting
- Administrative Assistant
- Analyst/Associate Analyst
- Auxiliary Reporter
- Branch Financial Consultant
- Business Process Analyst Associate
- Business Risk Analyst
- Communications Coordinator
- Consultant
- Content Marketing Manager
- Creativity Consultant
- Cultural Assistant
- Customer Care Specialist
- Donor Relations Assistant
- Editor
- Financial Advisor
- Global Strategy Analyst
- Government & Public Sector Advisory
- HR Business Partner
- Junior Professional Associate
- Labor Relations Analyst
- Mid and Major Gifts Coordinator
- News Associate/Producer
- Operational Support Technician
- Operations Analyst
- Political Sales Coordinator
- Portfolio Management Officer I
- Production Assistant
- Project Manager/Associate
- Quality Assurance
- Recruitment Coordinator
- Reporter/Photojournalist
- Researcher
- Senior Account Executive
- Staff Assistant
- Talent Acquisition Recruiter

**Organizations:**
- Abt Associates
- Amazon.com
- American Civil Liberties Union
- Ashoka
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Breakthru Beverage Group
- Bully Pulpit Interactive
- CBS This Morning
- Consero Group
- Cornerstone Research
- Deloitte
- Epic Systems
- Ernst & Young
- General Dynamics Information
- Goldman Sachs
- Technology
- Ketchum
- Keystone Fireworks
- KPMG
- Laurel TV
- Lockheed Martin
- McKinley Advisors
- Morgan Stanley
- NCC Media
- New Era Real Estate Investments
- Northrop Grumman
- Oxfam America
- PNC Financial Services
- Prevalent, Inc.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- TD International
- Under Armour
- Voice of America
- Washington Business Journal

**Entry tips:**

*Important qualities/skills generally include:* analytical, communication, creativity, decision making, interpersonal, and organizational skills.

For detailed tips, visit Vault’s Guide to Business Administration Jobs

**Consulting:**

- Be willing to learn and take the initiative to learn.
- When you first start, you are mostly a generalist, so be open to learning from colleagues and joining any training opportunities.
- Diversify your experiences – there is not just one clear cut path.
- Prepare for case interviews.

*Key skills required:* tell a compelling story, communication skills, logical thinking, and a genuine interest in the topic you are working on.

For detailed tips, visit Vault’s Guide to Interview Practice Guide: Case Interviews
Explore Career Paths: Resources

Use the sample job titles listed in this document to start exploring career paths. The links below provide search boxes for you to locate more information on the titles as well as search for other options.

- [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#), a career title dictionary
- [O*NET Online](#), the nation’s primary source of occupational information
- [FOCUS2](#), explore career paths using self-assessment questionnaires
- [Terrapins Connect](#), talk with professionals working in the field through UMD’s alumni network
- [Federal positions by major](#), research career titles with the federal government related to your major

[Vault Guides](#) - browse 100’s of industry guides to gain inside tips (see examples below).

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**Note:** Access Vault through your [Careers4Terps](#) account for FREE.

Explore Career Options: Gain Experience

The links below will be a helpful starting point in locating opportunities. Identify the type of experience that meets your needs.

**Sample list of opportunities:**

- [BSOS Engagement Opportunities](#), features programs for BSOS students
- [Careers4Terps](#), a job and internship database of openings for UMD students
- [Federal government internships](#), links to openings and application tips
- [Research Opportunities](#), advice and links for undergraduate students pursuing research experiences
- [UMD ENSP Internship: Policy](#), lists organizations that typically host interns
- [UMD National Scholarships Office](#), lists opportunities for UMD students

**Did you know?**

“Whether or not one has an internship impacts short-term and longer-term career success. Survey takers who completed at least one internship received a job offer more quickly and had a higher first position salary than those who did not.”

- NACE 2018

[UMD Careers4Terps](#): Featured positions for GVPT majors

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Learn about more internship sites for GVPT majors! [Click here.](#)
Where are GVPT majors interning?

Internships are a great way to try out an interest, regardless if they are directly related to your major. Employers tend to favor job seekers who have had an internship in the field they are hiring for. Review inspiring internship stories from BSOS students to gain ideas.

**Sample internship sites/title**

- Congressional Intern, *U.S. House of Representatives*
- Federal Advocacy Intern, *National League of Cities*
- International Policy and Diplomacy Fellow, *United Macedonian Diaspora*
- Legal Intern, *Student Legal Aid Office*
- Legislative Intern, *CASA de Maryland*
- Legislative Intern, *Maryland General Assembly*
- Media Assistant, *Washington Peace Center*
- Policy Intern, *The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth*
- Policy Intern, *U.S. Department of Energy*
- Research Assistant, *U.S. National Archives*
- Research Intern, *Hudson Institute's Center for Political Military Analysis*
- Translator, *Washington Post*

Skills Developed as a GVPT Major

Skills lead to jobs. Which skills do you possess?

- Assess your skills, abilities, interests, and values and explore how they relate to career options.
- Complete this skills inventory to get started.

**Sample list of skills developed in class by Government & Politics majors.**

- Accumulating and interpreting information
- Analytical skills
- Contending analytical and theoretical approaches
- Oral and written communication
- Presentation
- Proactive and display initiative
- Quantitative methods
- Research
- Understanding of basic political science concepts

Add to your skill set with these learning videos/courses.
Graduate School Programs

Review a sample of the universities and programs GVPT undergraduates were accepted to below. Around 50% of GVPT majors who pursue additional education after graduating apply for a JD program.

Law Programs:
- Cornell University
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Temple University
- University of Baltimore
- University of Maryland, Baltimore
- University of New Hampshire
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Richmond
- University of Virginia

Select Other Programs:
- George Washington University
  - Medicine
  - Political Science
- Georgetown University
  - Public Relations/Corporate Communications
- Johns Hopkins University
  - Government and Politics
- Ohio State University
  - Political Science
- University of Baltimore
  - Public Policy
- University of Exeter
  - Business and Management
- University of Maryland, College Park
  - Public Policy
  - Education
  - Applied Economics
  - Arabic Studies
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
  - Political Science
- Yale University
  - Epidemiology

Schedule a career consultation appointment with the University Career Center.

Graduate School Resources:

- U.S. News & World Report prepares annual ranking lists for graduate school programs
- UMD Pre-Law Advising offers guidance on law related graduate school
- Questions to consider before applying to graduate school
- Application timeline: stay on track with your graduate school application
- Tips for completing the application and financing the experience

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
@UMDCareerCenter | www.careers.umd.edu | go.umd.edu/UCCBSOS