

# PUBLIC POLICY CAREERS

## INDUSTRY GUIDE

This guide provides an initial, brief summary of career prospects, industry resources, and professional development information for students interested in Public Policy Careers. Whether you are new to the field, or pivoting from another field or industry, you can start here and continue to utilize 1:1 advising, industry engagement, and additional resources from Wagner's Office of Career Services.

A career in public policy involves the design, advocacy, creation, implementation, analysis, and evaluation of the laws, regulations, institutions, programs, and policies implemented by all levels of government, and engagement with nonprofit, non-governmental and for-profit organizations as they work on issues of public interest.



### KEY INDUSTRY QUALIFICATIONS & SKILLS

- Multiple years of relevant work experience in government or nonprofit organizations (intersecting public service or policy preferred)
  - up to 3 years for entry level, 5+ years for mid level, and 7-10+ years for senior level careers
- Experience supporting, implementing, or managing programs and policies
- Depending upon the position and career stage sought, some combination of these:
  - Research methods and evaluation skills
  - Capacity to do critical content analysis
  - Statistical analysis skills
  - Communication skills (writing and speaking)
  - Experience collaborating with multiple stakeholders and partners (various career stages/levels, internal and external)
  - Data analysis skills, with the ability to use data visualization and storytelling

### CAREER EXAMPLES AND PATHWAYS

- Associate Director, Racial Justice
- Communication Manager
- Consultant
- Data/Research Associate
- Director of Operations
- Director of Policy
- Executive Deputy Commissioner
- Policy Analyst
- Program Director
- Project Manager
- Senior VP, Government Affairs

### SALARY INFORMATION

More information can be found on our [Recent Employment Statistics](#). Salaries related to the relevant field, location, career stage, and organization of interest can be found on our [salary research sites page](#).



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As an NYU student, there are a number of [Wagner student organizations](#) and [NYU organizations](#) to engage in community and belonging. Additionally, you can join and participate in [industry professional associations](#) such as:

- **Wagner student associations**
  - EPN, WagCityGov, WFPA, WPA
- **Industry professional associations**
  - [American Association for Public Opinion Research \(AAPOR\)](#)
  - [American Evaluation Association \(AEA\)](#)
  - [Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management \(APPAM\)](#)
  - [Justice Research and Statistics Association](#)
  - [Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration \(NASPAA\)](#)
  - [Urban Affairs Association](#)
  - [Young Nonprofit Professionals Network](#)
- **Newsletters**
  - The Furman Center, J-PAL, MIT Newsletter
- **LinkedIn Groups**
  - Better Government Association, DayBook, Harvard Business Review
- **Social Media**
  - @besci\_jobs, @econ\_RA, @Governing, and your local/state/federal representatives

## SAMPLE EMPLOYERS AND ALUMNI

View [Wagner Alumni Profiles](#) and see how Wagner alumni are working in organizations like Accenture, Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS), the NYC Department of Education, NYC Office of Management and Budget, Vera Institute of Justice, and more. You can connect with alumni for informational interviews through [LinkedIn groups](#) and the [NYU Violet Network](#).

## INTERNSHIP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- [Aspen Institute Fellowship](#)
- [Brookings Institution Internships](#)
- [Center for Strategic & International Studies](#)
- [David M. Rubenstein Fellows](#)
- [Govern for America Fellowship](#)
- [John D. Solomon Fellowship](#)
- [Mathematica Fellowship](#)
- [PolicyLink Internships](#)
- [Presidential Management Fellow](#)
- [Roosevelt Institute Fellowship](#)
- [Urban Institute Policy Fellows](#)

## CAREER ADVISEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

### The Office of Career Services

OCS provides individual career coaching and support. Visit our website to schedule a career advising appointment or email us at [wagner.ocs@nyu.edu](mailto:wagner.ocs@nyu.edu)

### How To Guides

[Networking & Informational Interviews](#), [Interviewing](#), [Career Planning](#) and more!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Wasserman Center for Career Development](#)  
email us at [career.development@nyu.edu](mailto:career.development@nyu.edu).
- [Rudin Center](#)  
email us at [rudin.center@nyu.edu](mailto:rudin.center@nyu.edu).
- [Furman Center](#)  
email us at [furmancenter@nyu.edu](mailto:furmancenter@nyu.edu).
- [John Brademas Center for Study of Congress](#)  
email us at [brademas.center@nyu.edu](mailto:brademas.center@nyu.edu).

