



School of Undergraduate Studies Career Services

Major Spotlight: Government



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What avenues do government students pursue after graduation?

The two most common avenues that graduating students pursue are additional education or work in some area of the public arena. Regarding the former, many Regent government majors attend law school following graduation. Some attend Regent Law School, while others attend another school.

The popularity of law results partly from the fact that practicing law is a fine career and partly from the fact that many Regent students have a heart for public

service and a desire to impact the world for Jesus Christ.

With regard to work in the public arena, many students show interest in working on the staff of a legislator, an interest group, think tank, or other "pressure group."

Although these are the two most common paths that government majors take after graduation, there are many other options, including graduate school, journalism, teaching, or work for some government agency.

How do they normally find jobs and internships?

Those students who are most successful at getting jobs and internships will be proactive by contacting organizations that interest them. This is also how I

found internships as an undergraduate. By going to an organization's website, one can often find job postings, but if there are not job postings, students should contact the organization to inquire about possible jobs or internships.

Some political organizations serve as job opportunity banks for organizations and legislators who share their political beliefs. For example, the Heritage Foundation maintains an up-to-date listing of openings in the Washington, D.C. area. One can often find government jobs by going to a state's governmental employment website or to the federal government's jobs website (www.usajobs.gov).

Many on campus students find summer internships in their home states. I have also been

Summer Internship Reminder

There's still time to land a summer internship!

- Internships are a great way to get experience in your field while increasing professional marketability.
- Conducting company and occupational research about your field of interest is an excellent strategy to begin your search.
- If you're interested in doing an internship, Career Services can help you identify potential companies and assist in the application process.
- Consider volunteering this summer. By doing so, you can learn practical skills while serving! The United Way is a good resource for inquiring about volunteer opportunities.

Visit our website for a list of possible internships sites.

Finding Your Vocation

In his article, "Following God in Career Choices," Marc Baer offers guidance for students trying to find the right major or career.

God calls us to a vocation in many different ways. God can call directly as He did with Abraham and Paul. Or He could place a desire in our heart.

At other times, God uses people to place us on a particular path like William Wilberforce. Baer states that God used three men to call Wilberforce

as prime minister: William Pitt, John Newton, and John Wesley. Sometimes God places people in our lives at the most unexpected times to guide us in the next part of our journey.

Seek advice from others. Pray to God. And know yourself. Baer gives six signs to look for as you find your calling:

"Passion: What motivates you?

Talent: Understand your gifts, and then seek work that matches them well.

Life Experience

Opportunity: Is there an open

door?

Community: Listen to the voice of others.

Joy-not happiness; joy."

If you have many interests, take these six signs to help you determine which one could be your calling. God calls us to different careers and places. Not all of us will go into ministry or become a teacher. He will place us where we are most needed.

To read Marc Baer's article: <http://www.intervarsity.org/news/following-god-in-career-choices>

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Learn about Career Services!

Kita Graham, Director of Career Services



Our purpose is to equip students with comprehensive resources that enhance their calling, marketability, promote goal setting, and encourage a spirit of excellence as they prepare for

Join our Facebook Fan Page to learn about upcoming events, job opportunities, and career tips.

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Jillian Loukinas, Graduate Assistant

Major Spotlight (continued)...

impressed by some of my online students who are employed on the staff of legislators or political organizations in their home states. Getting these jobs also can be as simple as going to their website and emailing a resume or putting on a nice suit and walking into their office.

What advice would you give to students currently majoring in government as they look for jobs?

The single most important piece of advice for students who are interested in careers in government is to find an internship during their time as undergraduates.

Interns often find that their experiences will open doors for employment after college, either with the organization with which they interned or else with a simi-

lar organization that values the experience that one gains in an internship.

This includes jobs in government, in interest groups and think tanks, and in non-profit organizations. Organizations are much more eager to pay an intern a relatively low wage than they are to pay someone a salary with benefits. Internships give organizations a chance to see you at work before they hire you for the long-term after graduation.

Second, students should be prepared to show an organization that they are professional. Get help with your resume and cover letters. Go to interviews only with professional attire and a nice haircut.

Show them that you have the ability to think critically and to communicate clearly with the

spoken and with the written word. Speak professionally on the telephone and send emails free of grammatical and punctuation errors. When you go to an interview, speak in a professional manner, and maybe even come prepared with a sample of a good term paper that has been polished.

For more information, contact the Government Major Advisor, Courtney Gage at cgage@regent.edu.

