

Government and Public Administration Career Cluster/Pathways

If you are interested in shaping or protecting the future of your city, state and country, the Government and Public Administration Career Cluster may be for you. Though there are some areas that are unique to military service, virtually every occupation can be found within government.

This career cluster is organized into seven career pathways:

- Governance
- National security
- Foreign service
- Planning
- Revenue and taxation
- Regulation
- Public management and administration

Careers

Students headed for government and public administration careers need to learn and practice skills that prepare them for diverse post-high school education and training opportunities, from apprenticeships and two-year college programs to four-year college and graduate programs.

Government and public administration careers include:

- Elected official (city council, mayor, governor, etc.)
- City manager
- Lobbyist
- Legislative assistant
- Military member (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard)
- Foreign service, diplomatic or consular officer
- Planner
- Census clerk
- Federal aid coordinator
- Tax examiner
- Internal revenue agent or investigator
- Auditor
- Bank examiner
- Election supervisor



- Cargo or border inspector
- Child support officer
- Court administrator
- City, county or court clerk
- Guardian ad litem

Note: Each school and school district has different CTE options. Not every district has classes in every cluster, nor does every district offer CTE dual credit and Advanced Placement options.

Career & Technical Student Organizations

Career and technical student organizations are much more than clubs. They provide opportunities for hands-on learning, and for applying career, leadership and personal skills in real-world environments. Participants build their skills by developing projects, attending events, and competing regionally and nationally.

The only student organization currently in existence that exists specifically for government and public administration is Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

To view the [list of CTSOs](#).

Education After High School

It is fact that young people who have at least one year of post-high school education earn thousands of dollars more a year. So, if you spend even one year at a two- or four-year college, in a certificate program at a technical school, or in an apprenticeship after you graduate from high school, you will very likely earn higher wages all your life. By furthering your education, you will be better-prepared to successfully navigate the world of work.

After taking classes relevant to government and public administration, you could pursue any number of opportunities including:

- On-the-job training in an administrative role or as a member of the armed forces
- A two-year college degree in public administration, healthcare administration, human services management or political science
- A four-year college degree in political science, public administration, national security, public policy or revenue

Student Resources

Middle & High School

For information about your district's CTE offerings and how to move forward with planning for your future, contact or visit:

- [Preparing for your future: Why CTE?](#)
- Your school career or guidance counselor
- Your principal or school district Career and Technical Education office
- Career and Technical Education - Washington

Apprenticeship & College

More than 1,000 jobs in Washington are connected to an active, registered apprenticeship program. For more information about apprenticeships and colleges, visit:

- [How to become an apprentice: Five steps to getting started](#)
- [Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges](#)
- [Checkoutcollege.com](#)
- [Washington Student Achievement Council](#)
- [Washington Career Bridge](#)
- [University of Washington Evans School of Public Policy and Governance](#)

Additional Resources

- [What is Public Administration?](#)
- [The U.S. government's official web portal](#)
- [Public service careers](#)

For Educators

- [Forms and Standards](#)
- [Comprehensive CIP Code Chart](#)

CIP Codes

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Codes assist in tracking, assessment, and reporting CTE courses.

- 280301
- 288888