



CAREERS IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: SERVE AND SHAPE YOUR NATION

A career in the federal government offers a chance to make a real impact — from protecting natural resources to advancing technology, education, and healthcare. With over two million civilian employees across hundreds of agencies, there's a role for nearly every major and interest area.

If you're curious about federal careers, take time to explore the types of jobs available and learn how the hiring process works. It's more structured than the private sector, but with preparation, you can navigate it successfully.

If you'd like guidance on exploring federal opportunities or preparing a federal-style résumé, schedule an appointment with your Career Development Coach through Handshake.

UNDERSTAND FEDERAL WORK

Before applying, ask yourself:

- What issues do I care about most?
- Am I open to relocating or working remotely?
- Do I want to serve in policy, research, operations, or public engagement?

The federal government is made up of hundreds of agencies and offices — from NASA and the National Park Service to the Department of Education and the CDC. Positions exist in almost every field, including business, law, environmental science, engineering, and healthcare.

LEARN HOW FEDERAL HIRING WORKS

- [USAJobs.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov) – The official site for all federal job listings. You can create a profile, upload documents, and save searches.
- [GoGovernment.org](https://www.go.gov) – A guide to understanding the federal hiring process and exploring career paths in government.
- [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](https://www.bls.gov) – Working for the Federal Government – Overview of employment trends and what to expect.
- [USAJobs Help Center](https://www.usajobs.gov/help-center) – Step-by-step application support and résumé guidelines.

CREATE A STRONG FEDERAL RÉSUMÉ

A federal résumé is typically longer and more detailed than a private-sector version. It should include specific accomplishments, keywords from the job posting, and full work histories (including hours per week).

- Review Handshake articles on Federal Resumes.
- Schedule a review session with a Career Coach before applying.

DISCOVER WHERE YOU FIT

- Try the Strong Interest Inventory assessment or review the Work Values and Transferable Skills tip sheets at the Career Center.
- Consider internship programs like Pathways or Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) to experience public service firsthand.

QUICK TIP

Federal hiring can move slowly — apply early and keep multiple applications open at once. Be patient and persistent. Once you're in, federal careers often offer excellent benefits, stability, and opportunities for advancement.