# Middle School Career Investigations: Government and Public Administration Pathways

## Pathways Menu

This exhibit covers the seven different pathways in the Government and Public Administration Career Cluster. Click on each pathway to learn about its associated careers. Make sure to visit each one.

## Foreign Service Pathway

People who work in the Foreign Service Pathway serve in embassies, consulates, and other diplomatic missions in countries like Argentina or Barbados or in Washington, D.C. Job responsibilities range from day-to-day operations of a U.S. embassy to analyzing political and economic events or helping American citizens around the world.

## Foreign Service Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Foreign Service Pathway include Diplomatic Courier, Foreign Service Worker, and Interpreter or Translator.

## Foreign Service Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Foreign Service Pathway. Diplomatic Couriers typically have Associate’s Degrees. They have an average salary of $79,626 depending on their travel and level of experience. These positions may require security clearance which means that previous legal or financial issues may exclude some individuals. Interpreters and Translators need a Bachelor’s Degree, as well as on-the-job training. They have an average salary of $66,890.

## Governance Pathway

People who work in the Governance Pathway include the officials elected or appointed to government positions responsible for making and executing public policy. This pathway includes the President and members of Congress, governors and state legislators, and local elected officials such as councilpersons or commissioners. Also included are the staff members that support them. Careers in this pathway often require working with constituents or interest groups with conflicting goals.

## Governance Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Governance Pathway include Legislative Aide, Legislator, and Lobbyist.

## Governance Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Governance Pathway. Legislators at the local, state, or national level can have varying levels of education from an Associate’s Degree to a law degree. They have an average salary ranging from $26,870 to $400,000 depending on the level at which they work. Legislators at the local and state level may have other careers. Lobbyists require a Bachelor’s Degree. Their average annual salary is $75,000.

## Planning Pathway

People who work in the Planning Pathway develop long- and short-term land use plans to provide for growth and revitalization of urban, suburban, and rural communities, while helping local officials make decisions concerning social, economic, and environmental issues. Planners promote the best use of a community’s land and resources for residential, commercial, institutional, and recreational purposes.

## Planning Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Planning Pathway include Actuarial Analyst, Economic Development Coordinator, Economist, Interviewer, and Urban and Regional Planner.

## Planning Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Planning Pathway. Most Economists have Master’s Degrees in economics. They have an average salary of $124,300. Economists may work in public or private industries. Urban and Regional Planners require a Bachelor’s Degree. Their average annual salary is $73,390.

## Regulation Pathway

People who work in the Regulation Pathway will typically possess a body of technical knowledge about an industry, the environment or technology. This, coupled with a knowledge of related laws, rules and regulatory systems, permit regulators to protect our health, safety and environment as well as ensure the integrity of our financial, transportation and public utility industries. The work may include physical inspections, audits, investigations and the reports, citations, hearings and courtroom trials required to enforce a myriad of regulatory requirements.

## Regulation Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Regulation Pathway include Aviation Inspector, Compliance Officer, Cyber Crime Investigator, Environmental Compliance Inspector, Financial Analyst, Financial Manager, Privacy Compliance Manager, Private Detective, Investigator, and Transit Vehicle Inspector.

## Regulation Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Regulation Pathway. Most Financial Managers have Master’s Degrees in business or finance. They have an average salary of $159,800. Transit Vehicle Inspectors do not require an advanced degree; however, they need on-the-job training, as well as some technical training to perform their jobs. Their average annual salary is $75,800.

## Public Management and Administration Pathway

Government agencies, public corporations, and trusts have specific and rigorous standards for the stewardship of public resources. Public management careers require technical skills related to budgeting, personnel management, procurement, or other activities, and specific knowledge of the regulations and other policies that govern public management.

## Public Management and Administration Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Public Management and Administration Pathway include Court Clerk, Eligibility Specialist, Cyber Crime Investigator, Mail Carrier, Postal Service Clerk, and Postmaster/Mail Superintendent.

## Public Management and Administration Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Public Management and Administration Pathway. Court Clerks require extensive education through an Associate’s Degree, on-the-job training, and technical training. They have an average salary of $53,620. Mail Carriers do not require an advanced degree; however, they need on-the-job training. Their average annual salary is $48,980.

## Revenue and Taxation Pathway

People who work in the Revenue and Taxation Pathway ensure that governments obtain revenues from businesses and citizens by collecting tax dollars, reviewing tax returns, conducting audits, monitoring taxes payable and collecting overdue tax dollars.

## Revenue and Taxation Sample Careers

Sample careers in the Revenue and Taxation Pathway include Compliance Officer, Financial Analyst, Financial Manager, Real Estate Appraiser, and Revenue Agent.

## Revenue and Taxation Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the Revenue and Taxation Pathway. Real Estate Appraisers require a Bachelor’s Degree. They have an average salary of $59,040. Revenue Agents require a combination of an Associate’s Degree and/or a Bachelor’s Degree, as well as on-the-job training. Their average annual salary is $52,330.

## National Security Pathway

People who work in the National Security Pathway maintain a strong national security, or protect our country, by participating in such diverse activities as running a military hospital, commanding a tank, programming computers for soldiers, operating a nuclear reactor, or repairing and maintaining a helicopter. The military provides training and work experience in these fields and many others for more than 2.5 million people who serve in the active Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, their Reserve components, and the Air and Army National Guard.

## National Security Sample Careers

Sample careers in the National Security Pathway include Combat Specialty Officer, Cyber Defense Analyst, Military Enlisted Personnel, Military Intelligence Specialist, Military Officer, Military Hospital Director, and Special Forces Personnel.

## National Security Education and Salaries

There is a range in educational requirements and salaries in the National Security Pathway. General Military Enlisted Personnel do not need any degree; however, they undergo extensive on-the-job training and technical training. They have an average salary of $39,500. Most advanced personnel, like Combat Specialty Officers, require a Bachelor’s degree, as well as technical training. Their average annual salary is $73,000.