

BEYOND INTERNSHIPS

DESIGN A SUMMER PLAN

PUBLIC SECTOR

1

IDENTIFY INDUSTRY FOCUSED SKILLS

- Commitment & Enthusiasm for Current Affairs and Social Issues
- Problem Solving & Critical Thinking
- Leadership & Influence
- Collaboration & Teamwork
- Organization & Time Management
- Written & Oral Communication

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COMBINE MULTIPLE EXPERIENCES

- Informational Interviews
- Job Shadow
- Coursework
- Volunteer/Service
- Micro-Internship
- Part-time / Temp Work
- Professional Conferences
- Workshops/Trainings/Competitions
- Create Your Own Internship
- Individual Project: Create Something
- Start a Business
- Research

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DEMONSTRATE AND ARTICULATE

- Think creatively about how you can develop/demonstrate skills. Be proactive and intentional in all of your experiences.
- Find and cultivate mentors.
- Schedule sessions with your Vandy Career Coach to develop your plan and discuss how to "tell the story" of your summer.

SAMPLE PLAN

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE

- **Goal:** Demonstrate your commitment to an important issue/cause and to your community through general public service.
- **Action:** Search for volunteer opportunities with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), local businesses or political campaigns on websites such as Idealist, VolunteerMatch, OpenIGO, and various campaign websites.
- **Result/Skills:** Learn first-hand about issues you are interested in through meaningful work experiences while building leadership, organizational, collaborative and problem-solving skills.

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWS

- **Goal:** Learn about the real-life experiences of a professional working in the public sector or office that interests you through informal conversation and networking opportunities.
- **Action:** Connect with public sector and industry professionals on LinkedIn and/or reach out to Vanderbilt alumni using VUconnect to schedule brief phone conversations with 10 people.
- **Result/Skills:** Gain a better understanding of what positions you may apply to and organizations to work for. Improve your interviewing and communication skills by engaging with potential employers.

COURSEWORK/WORKSHOPS

- **Goal:** Pick up a marketable public sector skill to supplement the material you have learned in the classroom and/or prepare for pre-professional exams.
- **Action:** Enroll in grant writing or digital system courses through Coursera and edX. Locate practice tests for the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). Register for webinar case studies for public sector and governmental consulting.
- **Result/Skills:** Analyze patterns and draw new conclusions. Acquire intermediate technical ability with understanding of its demonstration in the public sector.

RESEARCH

- **Goal:** Immerse yourself in self-driven initiatives to further develop knowledge in the public sector. Analyze current research trends and talk with experts.
- **Action:** Determine what you want to research based on long-term career goals. Connect with Vanderbilt Librarians to access JSTOR, SAGE Journals, and other databases. Seek the guidance of a research mentor, such as a professor, that you can work with remotely.
- **Result/Skills:** Indicate independent research project on resume. Potentially present written reports to leaders at employed at think tanks, nonprofits, and advocacy centers. Build analytical and critical thinking skills applicable to a range of policy matters.