

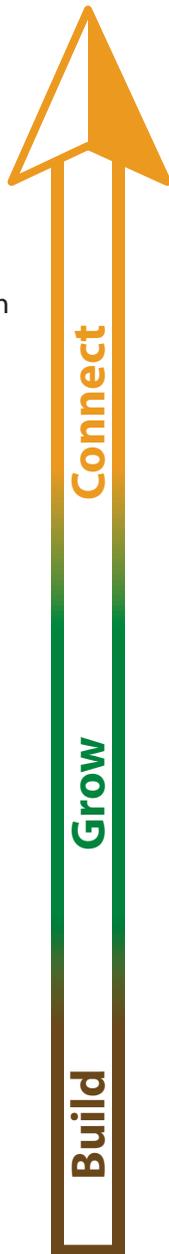


This career compass provides options, tips, suggestions, and strategies for how a student can obtain critical skills, experiences, and competencies in order to launch their geoscience career based on their academic standing. The content herein is based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, interviews with personnel in the occupation, and research on available student opportunities.

Job Summary

A policy associate specializes in evaluating and shaping science policy through strong communication and networking. Although their tasks vary most policy associates work in one of four areas: collecting information and evaluating policies, sharing policy information with the public, coalition building with stakeholders, and informing government officials about science and the needs of the scientific community.

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Undergraduate

- Congressional Visits Day
- Blog about your participation in policy events
- Conference sessions, workshops, and webinars on geoscience policy; student government, and campus clubs
- Contact state geological survey, department of natural resources, or environmental protection department
- Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) internship
- Scientific societies, on the Hill, in federal or state agencies, or in local government
- Engage with elected officials offices at the district or state level or in Washington D.C.
- Degree in the geosciences
Coursework or minor in a relevant subject like policy
- Research experience

Graduate/Master's

- Congressional Visits Day
- Workshops and webinars on geoscience policy and science communication
- Events, activities, conference sessions about non-academic careers
- Plan or host a seminar speaker on geoscience policy in your department
- Clubs, student government, geoscience professional societies
- Scientific societies, on the Hill, in federal or state agencies, or in local government
- Engage with elected officials offices at the district or state level or in Washington D.C.
- NOAA's Knauss Fellowship
National Academies Mirzayan Fellowship and Gulf Research Program Fellowship
ORISE Internships, Fellowships, and Research Opportunities
- Degree in the geosciences
Coursework or minor in a relevant subject like policy
- Master's thesis with connection to societal impacts, resource needs, or sustainability

Ph.D./Post-doc

- Conference session conveners and attendees
- Convene a policy session at a geoscience conference or host policy speakers in your department
- Plan an engagement with a government office
- Presidential Management Fellowship
- California Council on Science and Technology Policy Fellowships
- Congressional Science Fellowship
- American Association for the Advancement of Policy Fellowship
- Degree in the geosciences
Coursework or minor in a relevant subject like policy
- Dissertation with connection to societal impacts, resource needs, or sustainability

Also applicable at Ph.D. level

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