



CONTEMPLATING CAREERS

Public Policy Work

Are you familiar with or interested in parliamentary procedure? Are you pragmatic and able to compromise? Are you able to build strong relationships? Do you take things personally? These are some of the questions to ask yourself if you are considering a career in public policy. Those successful in this field understand process, are pragmatic and able to compromise without abandoning ideology, and do not take things personally.

The criminal justice system looks to legislators to write and pass laws, though students in the field rarely see this as a career choice. The importance of having members of the legislature, at either the federal or state level, familiar with the intricacies of the criminal justice

system is vital to maintaining and protecting our rights. A double major in criminal justice and political science or public affairs provides a background for seeking political office and for a wide variety of jobs. Many career paths are available in legislative work, including conducting policy research, drafting bills, writing legal opinions, and, perhaps, ultimately running for office (see www.legislativecareers.org).



Career Video:

An associate professor of public policy discusses his experience and current issues in the field.