

A New Day for the Civil Service





Finding and Applying for Jobs in the Federal Government



Benefits of Federal Government Service

- Public Service/Opportunity to Make a Difference
- Diverse Career Field Opportunities
- Wide Spectrum of Federal Missions
- Excellent Advancement Opportunities
- Training and Professional Development
- Work/Life Balance
- Competitive Compensation Package



Veterans Preference

- The Federal Government recognizes the economic loss suffered by citizens who have served their country in uniform in times of strife, and acknowledges the obligation owed to disabled veterans.
- Gives eligible veterans extra assistance in getting a job, or keeping their job, in the event of a reduction in workforce.
- Veterans who are disabled or who served on active duty during certain time periods or in military campaigns are entitled to hiring preferences over other eligible candidates.
- Does not guarantee the veteran a job



Federal Pay and Advancement

- Federal pay is generally competitive across a wide range of occupations
- General Schedule (GS) is the primary pay scale for many Federal jobs from Grades 1-15; other pay systems exist
- Varies by geographic location (the base salary for GS grades does not change)
- Can progress through several grades within a few years of Federal employment



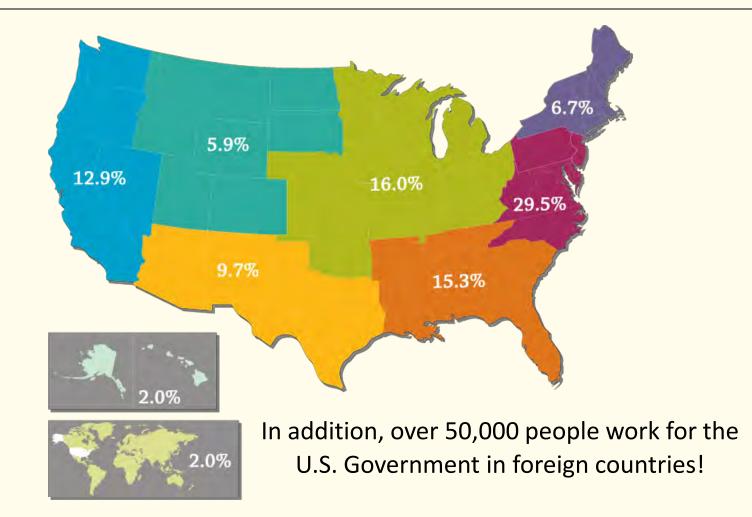
Selected 2011 Starting Salaries

City	GS-5	GS-7	GS-9	GS-11
Atlanta	\$32,722	\$40,534	\$49,581	\$59,987
Chicago	\$34,316	\$42,508	\$51,995	\$62,909
Dallas	\$33,101	\$41,002	\$50,154	\$60,681
Los Angeles	\$34,881	\$43,208	\$52,852	\$63,945
New York City	\$35,309	\$43,738	\$53,500	\$64,729
San Francisco	\$37,073	\$45,923	\$56,172	\$67,963
Washington, DC	\$34,075	\$42,209	\$51,630	\$62,467
Rest of U.S.	\$31,315	\$38,790	\$47,448	\$57,408

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT



Where the Jobs Are: Federal Jobs By Location





Where the Jobs Are: By Occupation

The Federal Government anticipates that future mission-critical jobs will include these occupations:





Perfect Fit: Identifying a Federal Career

 Identify positions by college major: http://www.usajobs.gov/El/jobsbycollegemajor.asp#icc

Identify opportunities by agency mission:
 http://www.usa.gov/Agencies/Federal/All_Agencies/index.shtml



Where to Learn about Federal Careers

- Primary Federal Government Jobs Website: <u>www.usajobs.gov</u>
- General Information on Federal Service: <u>www.makingthedifference.org</u>
- Listing of all Federal Agencies (A-Z index):
 www.usa.gov
- Federal Agency Websites and Social Media Pages
- Your Community and University Career Centers
- Federal Opportunities and Information for Students: <u>www.usajobs.gov/studentjobs/</u>
- Federal Employment Information for Veterans: www.fedshirevets.gov



Where to Look: MakingtheDifference.org





Where to Look: Agency Web Sites





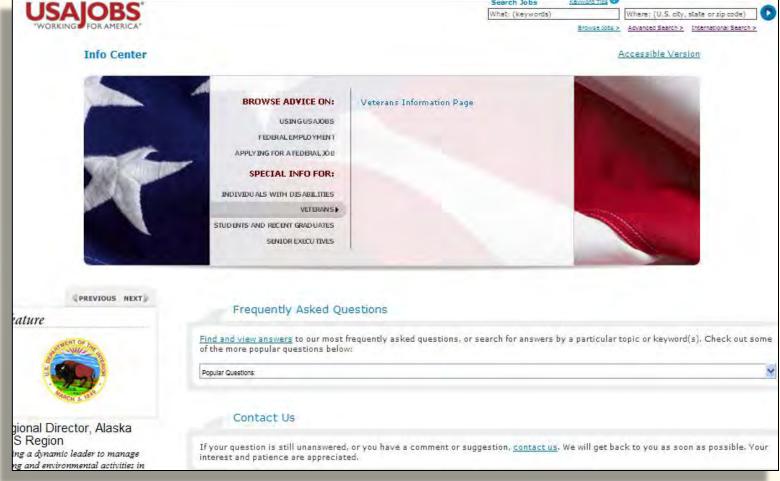
Where to Look: USAJOBS.gov

- Official Federal employment information system
- Lists more than 30,000 Federal jobs daily, worldwide
- Allows job seekers to apply online





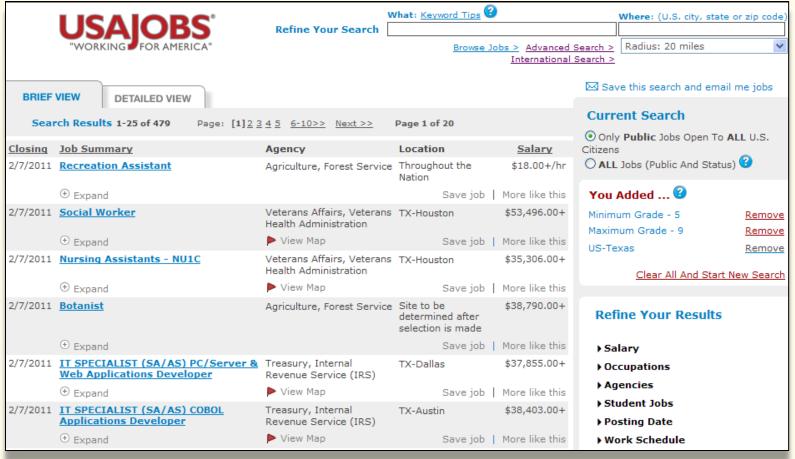
USAJOBS Information Center





Job Search Tips

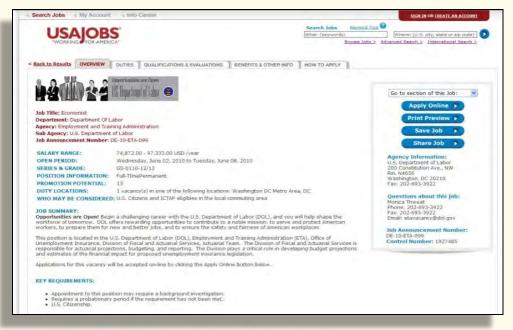
Sample Search: Entry-level positions in Texas





Anatomy of a Job Announcement

- Overview of Agency and Position
- Duties of Position
- Qualifications and Evaluations
- Benefits and Other Information
- How to Apply



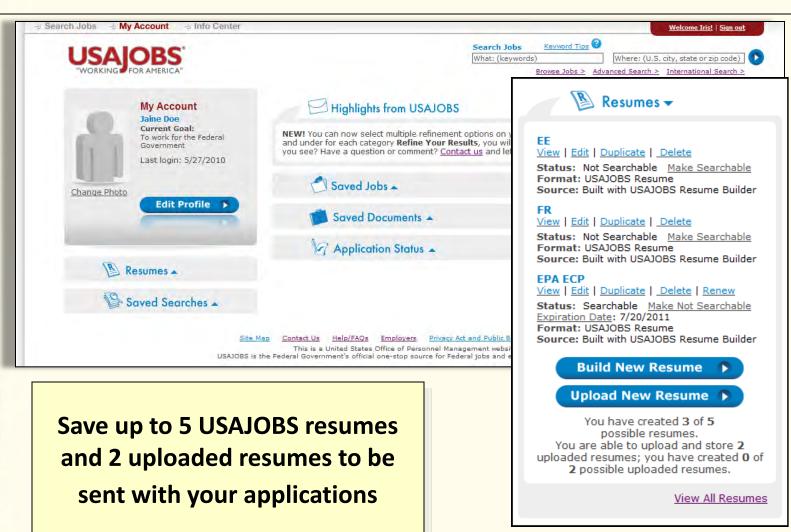


Applying for a Position

- Create a USAJOBS account and set-up your profile,
 Saved Searches, etc.
- Create or upload your resume
- Answer the questions posed online (if applicable)
- Submit the complete application package online by the stated application deadline
- You will receive notification of the status of your application

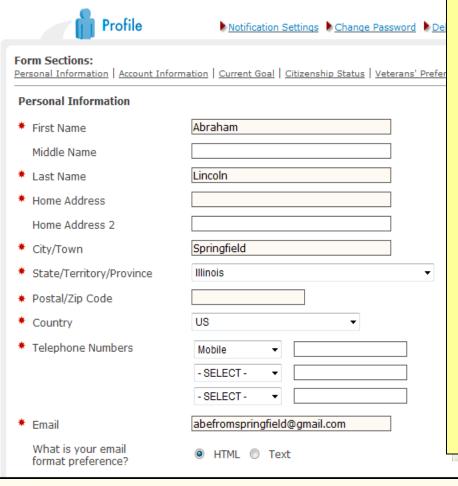


Building Your Online Account





Building Your Resume Online in USAJOBS

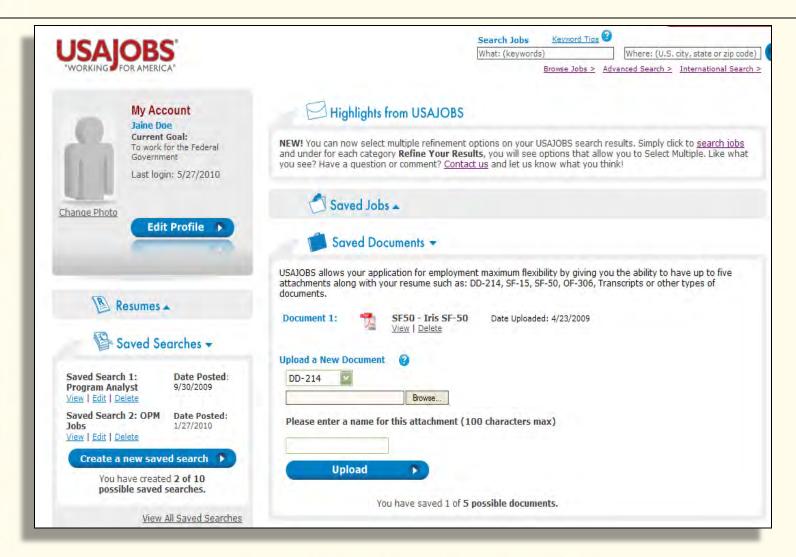


Typically requires detailed information on the following:

- Candidate information
- Work experience
- Education
- References (optional)
- Affiliations (optional)
- Desired locations



Saved Documents





Applicant Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility @

- Are you a:
 - Permanent Federal employee in a competitive position, excepted service position covered by an interchange agreement or eligible for reinstatement?
 - Veteran eligible for veterans' preference or separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous military service?
 - Person with non-competitive appointment eligibility?



When submitting an application, apply only to those positions for which you are eligible. If an announcement is open to the public, no special eligibility applies.

Agencies will ask about eligibility factors, such as:

- Past or current Federal employment
- Veteran status
- Non-competitive appointment (such as Peace Corps and AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers or people with disabilities)



Submitting Your Application

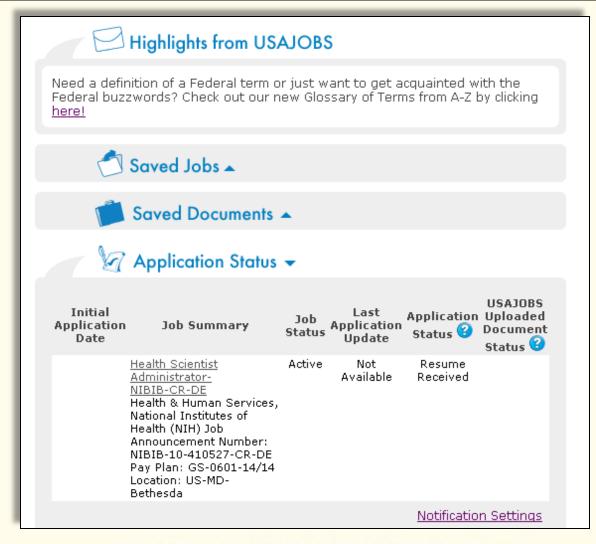


Remember:

- Follow the "How to Apply" instructions carefully, as they may differ across agencies
- If you have questions about the job or application process, utilize the agency point of contact listed on the announcement
- Check your application status online



Application Status





What to Expect Next

- 1. Notification that your application has been received
- 2. Agency will review eligibility and qualifications
- 3. Agency may hold additional assessments
- 4. Agency will rank candidates based on qualifications
- 5. Agency will adjudicate veterans' preference
- 6. Agency will refer names to the hiring manager
- 7. Agencies will conduct interviews
- 8. Agencies will select the best candidate for the job



A Note About Security Clearances

- After receiving a job offer...
- Most individuals selected for Federal positions undergo a basic background investigation
- Jobs that include access to classified information require a security clearance, which requires a more intensive background investigation
- Visit <u>OPM's website</u> for more information on background investigations.



Hiring Reform

- Easier to apply for jobs
- Raises bar on candidate quality
- Common sense approach to hiring process
- Provides for vigorous recruiting efforts
- Maintains veterans' preference





Special Hiring Programs and Authorities

- Veterans
- Military Spouses
- Students
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Peace Corps/VISTA Alumni
- Fellows (i.e. Boren, Truman)



Summary Tips for Applying

- Plan ahead allow plenty of time to thoroughly complete your application(s) and develop a strategy for applying
- Select carefully find jobs that best match your interests and abilities and for which you are qualified; consider using a tailored application for each announcement to which you apply (quality over quantity)
- Follow-up on the status of your application(s) Check your USAJOBS account and contact the identified agency representative to find out more about a job



Questions?

Contact Information:

[Name]

[Title/Office]

[E-mail]

[Phone]

U.S. Office of Personnel Management



The following slides are optional. Insert the following slides as needed based on your audience.

Do not use the entire presentation.



Hiring Programs for Students and Recent Graduates



Pathways Programs

- Executive Order 13562: Recruiting and Hiring Students and Recent Graduates (issued December 27, 2010)
- Establishes a Pathways framework with three clear program paths for students and recent graduates:
 - Internship Program
 - Recent Graduates Program
 - Presidential Management Fellows Program
- New programs will not be implemented until regulations are final
- Veterans' preference will apply to these programs



Current Student Programs

Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP)

- Temporarily work for a Federal agency while in school not necessarily related to field of study
- Schedule determined jointly by student and agency
- Terminates upon graduation unless converted to SCEP (next slide)
- No centralized application process individual agency hiring
- Appointment may not exceed one year



Current Student Programs

Student Career Experience Program (SCEP)

- Work for a Federal agency, in an area related to field of study, until graduation from accredited degree program
- All requirements/expectations spelled out in an agreement with the school/student/agency
- May be offered permanent position within 120 days after graduation if all requirements are met (at least 640 work hours + academic requirements)
- No centralized application process individual agency hiring



Current Student Programs

Presidential Management Fellows Program (PMF)

- Prestigious 2-year program with training and development; appointed at the GS-9/11/12
- Students must apply and be nominated by school in the fall of student's final year of advanced degree study
- Centralized, rigorous application and assessment process; fellows typically selected in March/April
- May be offered a permanent position upon program completion



New Pathways Programs: The Way Forward

Once OPM issues final regulations, current programs will evolve into the following:

- Internship Program open to students enrolled in a variety of educational institutions
- Recent Graduates Program two-year career development program for recent graduates who have completed their degree within the preceding two years (six for qualifying Veterans); hired in cohorts aligned with academic calendars
- Presidential Management Fellows Program a reinvigorated,
 2-year leadership and development program, aligned with academic calendars, for individuals who have received a qualifying advanced degree within the preceding two years



Where to Look for Student Positions



Resources

Federal Jobs by College Major

Student Educational Employment Programs (STEP/SCEP)

Student Career Experience Program (SCEP)

Internships

Summer Employment

Volunteer Service

Student Educational Employment

What you need to know...

- Governmentwide Hiring Programs for Stude consider the Student Temporary Employme internships, summer jobs, and volunteer ex the Federal Career Intern Program, or the F above.
- Entry Level Employment upon Graduation -GS-4, with a Bachelor's degree at the Grad a PhD at the GS-11, See <u>chart</u> for details. ! for employment opportunities.
- . Additional Opportunities for Students and

Student Jobs Web site

Your Career Center or Academic Advisor(s)

Individual Agencies/Contacts



Where to Look: Agency Web Sites



* STUDENTS HOME

PROGRAMS

WHICH PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

MEET OUR PEOPLE

STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

FAQS

Sample Students Page

Network with the World: Student Internships and Fellowships

Experience the thrill and rewards of the student internships and fellowships at the U.S. Department of State. Whether you're looking for internship programs for high school students or internships for college students, there's no limit as to how far it can take you. Here, you'll have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to connect with the global community, gain insight into U.S. foreign policy and diplomacy, explore new career avenues and most of all, acquire lifelong skills as you represent America to the world. Are you up for the challenge?

The U.S. Department of State offers internships for students of all levels, including opportunities for:

Internship programs for High School Students
Undergraduate Students
Graduate and Post-Graduate Students

RETURN TO TOP

VIEW MORE VIDEOS



→ SPOTLIGHT ON



Read about this month's feature post: <u>Rangoon</u> (pdf, 2.5 mb).

→ RELATED LINKS

 Student Programs Contact List



Special Hiring Authorities for Veterans





Special Hiring Authorities for Veterans

- Special hiring authorities for veterans:
 - Veterans Recruitment Appointment (VRA)
 - 30% or More Disabled Veteran Appointment
 - Veterans Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA)



Veterans Recruitment Appointment

- VRA are for veterans who:
 - ✓ Are disabled, or
 - √ Have a campaign badge, or
 - √ Have received an Armed Forces Service Medal, or
 - ✓ Honorably separated from service within the past 3
 years
- A two-year appointment and training plan for a position, where upon completion, veterans are converted to a career conditional or career status appointment
- Agencies can post job announcements on their website and USAJOBS, but are not required to advertise the position
- Agencies can appoint veterans without competition



30% or More Disabled Veteran Appointment

- Agencies with a job opening can offer a veteran the job if the veteran has a disability of 30% or more
- The veteran must be qualified to perform the duties of the position.
- Agencies can give the veteran a temporary or term appointment to first see if the individual can perform the duties of the job. The agency can convert the veteran to a permanent competitive position at any time during that appointment.



Veterans Employment Opportunity Act

- Allows veterans to apply under merit promotion procedures (can apply to job vacancies that are only open to current competitive service employees)
- Applies only to permanent competitive service positions – not excepted service positions.



Other Special Hiring Authorities

- Veterans should also consider these other special hiring authorities, if eligible:
 - ✓ Schedule A (people with disabilities)
 - ✓ Pathways Programs (students and recent graduates)
 - √ Veterans' preference does apply



Employment Information for Veteran and Military Family Members



Derived Preference

- When veteran is not able to use veterans' preference, preference is given to spouses, widows, widowers, or mothers of veterans.
- None may receive preference if the veteran is living and is qualified for Federal employment.
- Both a mother and a spouse (including widow or widower) may be entitled to preference on the basis of the same veteran's service if they both meet the requirements.



Military Spouse Appointing Authority

- Eligible military spouses can be hired outside of the usual hiring process.
- 3 Categories of Spouse Eligibility:
 - 1. Relocated with the service member under Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders.
 - 2. Service member is 100% disabled due to a service-related injury
 - 3. Service member killed while on active duty
- Military spouses are eligible within 2 years of the PCS orders, or 2 years from the date of the documentation indicating the service-connected disability or death.



Military Spouses – How to Apply

- Apply to any job on USAJOBS and apply noncompetitively as a military spouse
- State on your résumé that you are eligible under the military spouse hiring authority
- May need to submit documentation such as your spouse's PCS orders, marriage license, etc.



Veteran Employment Information www.FedsHireVets.gov





Hiring Program for People with Disabilities



Schedule A Hiring Authority

- Applicants with a disability can be hired under a noncompetitive hiring authority called "Schedule A." This occurs outside the usual hiring process.
- Eligible disability categories:
 - ✓ Intellectual
 - ✓ Psychiatric
 - √ Severe Physical
- Veterans' Preference applies to Schedule A, and disabled veterans should consider applying under this authority.



How to Apply under Schedule A

- Go to USAJOBS, find a job you like, and apply
- State on your resume that you are eligible under the Schedule A Hiring Authority
- Submit a copy of your "Schedule A" letter stating you have a disability and "Certification of Job Readiness" stating you are likely to succeed at the job for which you are applying
- Contact agency's Selective Placement Program Coordinator for guidance



Obtaining Letters

- "Schedule A" and "Certification of Job Readiness"
- Both letters can be combined or separate and obtained from:
 - Licensed medical professional
 - Vocational rehabilitation specialist
 - Federal or state agency that issues disability benefits
- Sample letters are available on USAJOBS (<u>www.usajobs.gov/individualswithdisabilities.asp</u>)



USAJOBS.gov Assistance

- USAJOBS is accessible for people with differing physical and technological capabilities
- Assistance is available 24/7 via computer, telephone, and TDD



Hiring Program for Peace Corps/Vista Alumni



Returning Peace Corps / Vista Volunteers

- Go to USAJOBS, find a job you like, and apply
- You can apply non-competitively as a Peace Corps/Vista returning volunteer during your <u>first year</u> home (extensions possible)
- State on your resume that you are eligible under Peace Corps / Vista hiring authorities
- Contact the agency directly if you have questions about grade and series
- Submit a copy of your Description of Service



Optional OPM Videos



The Life and Opportunities in Federal Service





Hiring Reform





Using USAJOBS.gov

Finding and Applying for Federal Jobs

on

www.USAJOBS.gov



Veterans

Click here to view the online video: "Vet to Vet"