

WHAT IS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS?



- Government affairs professionals work to influence public policy and regulations in all levels of government
- They engage with lawmakers, agencies, and organizations
- The field combines advocacy, lobbying, and policy analysis

THE SKILLS NEEDED FOR SUCCESS IN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

- Strong communication and negotiation skills
- Understanding of government processes and lawmaking
- Ability to research and analyze policy trends
- Strong writing skills for background memos, reports, speeches and presentations
- Networking and relationship-building skills

WHY IS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS IMPORTANT?

- It shapes or implements laws and policies at all levels that affect businesses, communities, families, students, etc.
- It ensures that voices from different sectors are heard in policy-making
- It helps organizations comply with regulations and navigate government processes



THE 4 MAIN CAREER PATHS IN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1 *Corporate Government Affairs*

- Represent businesses in policy discussions
- Most top companies in Alaska have Government Affairs staff
- Issues range in nature and touch every branch of government
- At OC: facilitate meetings with our Board members and elected officials to advocate for OC business priorities

2 *Nonprofit Advocacy*

- **Focus:** build relationships with government officials to influence legislation, funding, and policies that align with their mission.
- **Coalition Building & Grassroots Mobilization:** mobilize communities to raise public awareness and pressure policymakers for change
- **Providing Expertise to Policymakers:** present research, data, and lived experiences to inform decisions and highlight issues

3 *Public Sector*

- Serve as policy advisers or legislative staff to elected officials
- Shape legislation by researching, drafting, and analyzing policy proposals to align with government priorities.
- Work with stakeholder nonprofits, agencies, and constituents to gather input and build support for policy initiatives.
- Craft messaging, brief elected officials, and manage legislative agendas to advance policy goals.

4 *Consulting, Lobbying & Law*

- **Policy & Regulatory Advising:** Help clients understand and navigate complex government regulations and policy landscape
- **Lobbying Strategy & Advocacy Planning:** Develop targeted strategies to influence legislation and build relationships with key decision-makers.
- **Risk & Compliance Guidance:** Advise organizations on legal risks and ensure compliance with lobbying and ethics laws.

HOW TO GET STARTED IN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



- Seek internships with government agencies or advocacy groups
- Get involved with the Congressional Delegation and/or the State of Alaska
- Get involved in student government or advocacy groups
- Take courses in political science, law, or communications
- Follow political news and learn about policy issues

WHAT IS CAREER CONNECTIONS?

Career Connections features Olgoonik Corporation presenters and guest speakers who discuss education and career choices with Wainwright students, sharing real-world methods to bridge the gap from school to college and employment.

Olgoonik Foundation can help you connect to the right career! Learn more at OlgoonikFoundation.org

QUESTIONS? ASK AN OLGOONIK EXPERT!



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