



**CAREERSERVICES** UCSB

Building 599  
 (805) 893-4412  
 8:30am to 4:30pm; Monday – Friday  
[career.sa.ucsb.edu](http://career.sa.ucsb.edu)

# LAW & PUBLIC SERVICE

## Navigating Your Future

*This path may be for you if you are interested in pursuing a career or higher education in Law or Public Service.*

Including areas such as:

- ◆ Legal Services
- ◆ Politics
- ◆ Mediator
- ◆ International Affairs
- ◆ Public Policy & Planning
- ◆ National Security
- ◆ Public Administration
- ◆ Law Enforcement
- ◆ Advocacy
- ◆ Campaign Manager
- ◆ Lobbyist
- ◆ Labor Arbitrator

**Gaucho Paths to Success (GPS)** is a career education program offering you a framework to effectively pursue various occupational areas, through optimizing your academic, experiential, and career development preparation.

## EXPLORE OPTIONS

Career options in law and public service are diverse, exciting and growth-oriented. In our increasingly complex, information-driven and globally connected world, there is very important work to be done in the legal, governmental and public service arenas. From patent attorneys helping start-ups protect their intellectual property, to political consultants providing cutting edge research and advising candidates on their campaigns, international policy experts playing key roles in shaping global relations, and local water district managers working to ease the stress of the recent drought, these are careers rich with opportunities to serve, be challenged by and grow.

Here are some initial questions to ask yourself:

- ◆ What areas of the Law interest you most?
- ◆ Are you interested in serving the public good through work with social service and advocacy agencies?
- ◆ In what kind of work environment might you be most inspired and effective?
- ◆ Are you prepared to pursue an advanced degree beyond the Bachelor's degree?
- ◆ Do your academic strengths, interests and skills compliment the work inherent in this career track?

### Career Preparation

- Sign up for any of these FREE assessments with a peer advisor in Career Resource Room (CRR):
  - ◆ **Strong Interest Inventory**
  - ◆ **Strengths Finder**
  - ◆ **Myers-Briggs Type Indicator**
  - ◆ **Career Leader**
  - ◆ **Focus 2**
- Read **library books** in *International; Government, Law, Public Policy, & Safety; Social Service & Non-Profit* sections of CRR
- Browse through the *International; Government, Law, Public Policy, & Safety; Social Service & Non-Profit* **career binders** of online career library
- Check out **Careers by Major** on Career Services' website
- Conduct **Informational Interviews**. Search Career Services website for how to approach them

### Academic Preparation

- Speak with **undergraduate academic advisor** to ensure you are on track with your major
- Speak with **Pre-Law Advisor** to maximize your interaction with professionals in the field
- Maintain a **competitive GPA** within your major
- Utilize **campus resources** (e.g., CLAS, professors/TA office hours, study groups or private tutoring)
- Meet with **professors** during office hours to discuss your career goals and learn about research opportunities
- Attend lectures, symposia, and conferences held in your department to gain insight into current trends

## GET EXPERIENCE

### Connect with Career

- Sign up for **Gaucholink** and check out internships/part-time jobs
- Attend **Career Services workshops** (résumés/cover letters, job & internship search, interview strategies)
- Meet with counselor during **CRR drop-in hours** to review your résumé/cover letter
- Review **Get Experience in Law and Public Service** on Career website

### Internships

- Review **Internship Toolkit** on Gaucholink
- Check out [www.Internships.com](http://www.Internships.com) and **GoinGlobal**
- Consider participating in the **UCDC** or **UC Sacramento** programs through UCSB
- Sign up for your **academic department's listserv**
- Meet with **career counselor** to discuss local internships

### Part-time Employment

- Seek **part-time jobs** with law offices, the courts, advocacy centers, and local non-profit organizations to build skills and compliment your academic knowledge

### Networking

- Set up **LinkedIn** profile to build connections
- Attend local Bar Association meetings to network with area attorneys
- Volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors of local non-profit agencies

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Join one or more **student orgs** based on your area(s) of interest (e.g., *Ethics Bowl, Forensics Team, International Association of Political Science Students, Mock Trial Team, Model United Nations, Phi Alpha Theta, Sociology Association, Legal Education Association for Diversity (LEADS), Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, California Public Interest Research Group (CalPIRG)*) Volunteer/Community Service
- Seek **volunteer opportunities** through UCSB's Office of Student Life
- Get involved with **local community** through membership on organizational boards and county commissions

## GET EXPERIENCE (cont.)

### Job Shadowing

- Job shadow for a day with a professional who is in a position you aspire to. Refer to the Career Manual on how to arrange a job shadow

### Leadership

- Consider **Leadership Certificate Program (LCP)** offered through Office of Student Life
- Hold leadership positions in student run organizations
- Become active in **Associated Students** and run for office

### Graduate/Professional School

- Identify **professors** for letters of recommendation
- Maintain **competitive GPA** in major
- Review websites for potential graduate programs in Law, Public Policy, and Political Science

- Seek out internships and part-time jobs in the Legal field
- Consider a minor in Professional Writing
- If Law School is one of your goals visit the Law School Admissions Council, [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org) for information on applying

### Research

- Connect with professors to obtain **research assistant positions**
- Enroll in law related courses in other academic areas
- Check out **Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA)** for opportunities to work with faculty

## MOVE FORWARD

### Industry

#### Connect with Career

- Check out full-time jobs on **Gaucholink**
- Review **National Job Links, Job Search Tips & Guidelines** and **Accepting Offers** handouts on Career website

#### Résumé/Cover Letter

- Attend **Résumé/Cover Letter workshop**
- Attend **resume+** and have résumé reviewed by employer
- Make **appointment with faculty** to review your résumé and ask for possible job leads to contact

#### Interview

- Make ½ hour appointment at Career Services for **Mock Interview**

#### Job Search

- Connect with recruiters by participating in following career events:
  - ♦ Quarterly **Career Fairs**
  - ♦ **Industry Panels**
  - ♦ Employer **Info Sessions**
  - ♦ **On-Campus Interviews**
- Attend a **Job Search Strategies workshop**

#### Networking

- Attend **LinkedIn workshop**
- Attend **Info Sessions** with targeted employers

#### Negotiation

- Review books in CRR such as *Negotiate Your Job Offer*

#### Post-BA Options

- Paralegal programs
- Internships with Legal firms

### Graduate/Professional School

- Review **Graduate School Options handout**
- Research graduate programs at [www.gradschools.com](http://www.gradschools.com) or [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
- Identify **application deadlines, prerequisites and graduate exams** for programs your are interested in applying to

#### Career Events

- Attend **Graduate & Professional School Day** (Nov)
- Attend **Graduate School workshop** during academic year

#### Statement of Purpose (SOP)

- Attend **Writing an SOP workshop** through CLAS
- Review **rough draft of your SOP** with faculty
- Obtain critique of final draft of SOP by scheduling **one hour appointment** at Career Services (NOTE: limit one per quarter)

#### Curriculum Vitae (CV)/Letters of Rec

- Meet with a **career counselor** during ½ hour **appointment** to review your CV
- Identify recommenders and **request letters of recommendation** from your professors
- Prepare packets of information** (ex: application deadlines, CV and SOP, writing sample) to give to your recommenders

#### Graduate Exams

- Attend strategy session** for LSAT or GRE
- Investigate **study preparation courses** for your graduate exam (if applicable)

#### Name of Graduate Program (ex: Law School, MBA)

- Explore a variety of law school programs that meet your criteria for application