

Maxwell School Center for CAREER DEVELOPMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO EDUCATION POLICY

OVERVIEW

There are a wide variety of opportunities to pursue in the field of education including areas such as administration, foundations, government relations, grant writing, institutional research, and education policy. Qualifications will vary depending on the area of education an individual would like to pursue. The ability to build effective relationships with a wide range of people and to solicit cooperation from individuals and groups is essential. As funding is cut for educational programming, there will be considerable need for educational advocates and policy makers to restructure the way our education system works.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Education administrators provide vision, direction, leadership, and day-to-day management of educational activities in schools, colleges and universities, businesses, correctional institutions, museums, and job training and community service organizations. They set educational standards and goals and aid in establishing the policies and procedures to carry them out. Education policy professionals monitor/analyze economic, social and political issues affecting educational sector development. Through this process, they identify education policy development needs and potential solutions relevant to project activities. Government relations professionals work to promote access and equity in education for all students by shaping federal and state legislation, regulations, and programs. Also, those in this field work with strategic partners to help lead the nation in policy areas such as assessments, student financial aid, affirmative action, and diversity.

TYPES OF JOBS

- Teacher
- Administrator
- Policy maker
- Grant writer
- Curriculum developer
- Lobbyist

QUALIFICATIONS + SKILLS

- Program management
- Human resources (hiring, managing, training, coaching)
- Administrative skills
- Budgeting
- Research
- Strong oral/written communication skills, interpersonal skills

PRO TIP: Stay up to date on what is happening politically around education policy! Focus your efforts on the level you are most interested in, whether that is internationally, domestically, or on a local level.