

Government and Nonprofit

The Amherst College Loeb Center for Career Exploration and Planning's **Careers In Government & Nonprofit** program supports and motivates students who want to make a positive contribution to society through public service, politics, or nonprofit work. The range of opportunities to do this work is immense and diverse. The program guides students through the process of discerning which areas of work might be a good fit and creates opportunities for them to develop the professional skills and knowledge they need to positively impact issues they care about.

Some employers that Amherst alumni have gone on to work for within government and nonprofit include *Federal Reserve Bank, Human Rights Campaign, New York City's Mayor's Office, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, U.S. Army, and U.S. Department of Justice.*

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Loeb Center Careers In programs encourage you to develop a deep and sustained exploration of a particular field. Ways in which to grow and experience government and nonprofit industries include:

TREKS

A small, select group of students travel to Washington D.C. and Annapolis, Maryland during school break. Students meet with prominent alumni and employers who are working on important issues through public policy research, advocacy and lobbying, community organizing, local and national political leadership, international development, and direct social service.

INTERNSHIPS AND SUMMER RESEARCH

Internships allow you to apply what you have learned in the classroom to the world of work and are an important step in clarifying your interests, skills, and career goals.

Some of the employers that have hired Amherst College students for summer

experiences include: City Year, Federal Reserve Bank, the Peace Corp., U.S. Department of Justice.

GET INVOLVED

Join an Amherst College student organization such as: Amherst College Republicans, Association of Amherst Students, Amherst Political Union, Roosevelt @ Amherst, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity, Reproductive Justice Alliance.

Learn more about different career paths and office environments by joining us for Food for Thought meals, panels, and office hours with employers and alumni that come to campus. Alumni guests have shared stories about their work as civil liberty policy directors, nonprofit consultants, research directors, global development advisors, state legislators, AmeriCorps volunteers, foreign policy experts, and community organizers. All details such as date, time, location, and any deadlines for reserving your spot can be found in Handshake (amherst.joinhandshake.com/events).

TIP! INTERNSHIP SEARCH

Sometimes the best opportunities are not those that are well-advertised, well-known, or prestigious. Small-scale organizations, NGOs, and country-, city-, or state-level government entities can often offer fantastic opportunities to develop your skills and build a foundation of experience. Look past the “brand.”

“I was lucky to be able to participate in the Careers In Government & Nonprofit Trek over spring break. Before we left, I knew it would be a unique experience—when else would I be able to visit two cities, meet so many alumni in their workplaces, and receive on-the-ground insight and advice in a week-long trip? I had expected to narrow down my interests after the trek, but it actually opened up more possibilities for exploration in the future! To be honest, I used to be intimidated by the Loeb Center and the thought of career planning, but I learned that there are so many resources and opportunities that may lead you to an awesome experience and new relationships.”

ShoYoung Shin '19, American Studies

RESOURCES AND NEXT STEPS

- **Handshake** (amherst.joinhandshake.com) is your one-stop shop for Loeb Center events, appointments, and resources, as well as a wide variety of internship and job opportunities. Complete your Handshake profile! The more complete your profile is, the more effective and customized the platform becomes.
- Make a Careers In Government and Nonprofit appointment in Handshake to meet with an advisor to talk more in-depth about your own questions and get advice. You can also visit the Loeb Center during drop-in hours. Drop-in hours require no appointment, and each 20-minute appointment is taken on a first come, first served basis.
- Chat with a PCA. Peer Career Advisors (PCAs) are highly trained students who can relate to what it means to balance classes, time with friends, and planning steps to a career. PCAs can give you great resume advice and answer questions about Handshake, internships, interviewing, networking, self-assessment, and other Loeb Center resources.
- Read the Loeb Center weekly newsletter, Career Columns. Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/amherstcareerswithimpact

CAREERS IN

The Loeb Center provides all students with opportunities to dive deeply into specific career areas of interest.

Our Careers In programs provide:

- expert advising from industry specialists
- tailored exploratory programs and skills workshops
- insight into recruiting processes, internship and job search strategies, and interview preparation
- access to alumni in the field

You may participate in any Careers In program at any time as your interests develop, deepen, change, or multiply.

There are seven different Careers In programs:

- Arts and Communication
- Business and Finance
- Education Professions
- Government and Nonprofit
- Health Professions
- Law
- Science and Technology

The Loeb Center also offers general advising and exploration opportunities for students who are curious about a broad range of career options or who are just beginning to reflect on their interests, values, and skills.