Public Service

Interest Area
Although Binghamton University does not offer a specific major for students interested in a public service career, at the undergraduate level opportunities exist. Students gain experience from courses designed to develop an understanding of public service as a career.

Many courses give students both a strategic and a hands-on understanding of the foundation and evolution of public service as it relates to public service now and its direction for the future. Internships provide students with real-world experience and connections in the field.

First Year Courses
Potential courses to consider:
- ANTH 166: Introduction to Social Anthropology
- ENVI 101: Env + Man Woman-Eco/Perspective
- GEOG 103: Multi-Cultural Geography of the US
- PHIL 140: Introduction to Ethics
- SOC 100: Social Change
- PLSC 113: Introduction to Comparative Politics
- PLSC 117: Introduction to World Politics

Beyond the First Year
Courses to consider beyond the first year:
- ENVI 239: Environmental Planning and Policy
- GEO 233: Urban Geography Race and Place
- Johnson City Mentor Program (credit available)
- PAFF 225: Foundations of Civic Engagement
- PLSC 281: Policy Debate
- SOC 200: Foundations of Social Theory

Potential Jobs
Careers in public service encompass service to society at the local, state, national or international level. Although not always necessary, many students pursue a master’s or doctoral degree in fields such as: politics, public administration, public policy, social justice, student affairs, the sciences, education and social work.
Potential employers include but are not limited to local, state, and federal governments; nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations; private firms engaged in working with governments; and private corporations. Below is a list of some careers:

Get involved where you live! The Hinman College residential community offers the Achieving Leadership In Volunteering Experience (ALIVE) program. This program is about personal growth, civic engagement, exploring new opportunities and experiential learning. [http://www.binghamton.edu/residential-life/communities/hinman/living-learning/]

The University’s Center for Civic Engagement connects students with service opportunities on campus and in the community. [https://www.binghamton.edu/cce/]

Explore mentorship and internship opportunities through the Johnson City Mentor Program. [http://www.binghamton.edu/ccpd/students/undergraduate/internships-and-other-ways-to-gain-experience/jc-mentor-program.html]

To explore future internships and careers visit the Idealist website. [http://www.idealist.org/]

If you need help brainstorming about where your interests lie, visit the Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook handbook. The handbook lists information about virtually every career, its average salary and whether the occupation is growing or shrinking. [http://www.bls.gov/ooh/]

If you have any questions, contact a Harpur Academic Advising associate at: harprshr@binghamton.edu or call (607) 777-3700