

Unstoppable Starts Here: Born to Lead, Committed to Serve

Having worked alongside some of the most esteemed individuals in the country, I know that there is no better career path than the one found at federal agencies, and there is no better time to pursue federal work than right now.

As a federal intern, I never thought that I would have the opportunity to assist with the implementation of the single biggest piece of domestic policy legislation within the United States of America for the last 45 years. Nevertheless, here I am, helping to execute the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act within the states and territories of America!

Hi, my name is Aisha Hasan and I am a senior Community Health major at the University of Maryland, College Park. I currently intern at the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs within the Office of the Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services.

I was first inspired to work for the government during the summer before my junior year in college when I interned in the Maryland Governor's Office. I was able to see how the government positively impacts the lives of so many individuals within that state in different and meaningful ways. At the end of this internship I knew that I wanted to continue to help others, and I could not think of a better way to do so than by bringing my skills and experiences to an internship with the federal government!

In 2009, I applied to the Federal Semester program at UMCP. Through this program, students take policy courses during the fall semester and intern with a federal agency during the spring. My internship was with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases within the National Institutes of Health.

From corresponding with the Governor's senior staff to assisting with the implementation of federal health policies, my internships on the state and federal levels have taught me about the importance of the government on the lives of millions of Americans everyday. These internships inspired my passion for public service and motivated me to apply to become the *Federal Service Student Ambassador* for UMCP.

I now work as an ambassador on behalf of the Partnership for Public Service, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization intent on revitalizing the federal government, in part, by inspiring students to apply for federal jobs and internships. In this role, I serve as the



Federal Service Student Ambassador Aisha Hasan, UMCP

liaison between the federal government and UMCP students, and provide individuals with information about public service opportunities.

My duties include giving presentations to the general student body through lecture hall discussions, small classes and one-on-one meetings. I also communicate with our students, faculty and administrative staff to disseminate information about the many benefits of federal employment.

According to the Partnership for Public Service, there are 273,000 federal positions that must be filled by 2012. As UMCP students, we are extremely lucky to be located so close to Washington D.C. where there are a multitude of federal positions available.

In addition to this large number of federal positions that must be filled, agencies are currently in the process of implementing a number of hiring reforms meant to streamline the process and make it more applicant-friendly. These efforts, which stem from a memo issued by President Obama in early May, include eliminating Knowledge, Skills and Abilities essays from the first step of the application process, accepting resumes and cover letters from applicants, and notifying applicants about their status at four points during the process. As a result of these changes, applying to the federal sector has never been easier!

I am an advocate for the vast array of benefits associated with federal work, and I would love to speak with you about these opportunities. I am always available to talk in a one-on-one meeting or via email at ahasan30@umd.edu. In addition to contacting me, I would also encourage you to begin learning more about the process on [www.http://makingthedifference.org](http://makingthedifference.org). This website has great resources for finding and applying for federal jobs and internships including tips for building a federal resume and navigating the security clearance process, as well as profiles of dynamic young feds. If you have a passion for helping others, then the federal government is the place for you; you will be able to help millions of individuals simultaneously!