Foreign Service Officer (Generalist)

The Foreign Service offers the opportunity for public service, challenge, lifelong learning, foreign language study, and the chance to live and work overseas.

The Five Career Tracks:
Every FSO Generalist enters the Foreign Service in one of five career tracks. All career tracks engage with host government officials, private sector leaders, and international organization officials.

All build communication between U.S. and the host country.

All have opportunities to serve in different career tracks over a career. We seek the same qualities and are judged by the same skills criteria in all career tracks.

Consular Officers touch the lives of others.
Management Officers make diplomacy work.
Economic Officers promote economic partnerships, free markets, and trade.
Public Diplomacy Officers explain American values and policies.
Political Officers analyze political events.

Steps to becoming a Foreign Service Officer

1. Choose a Career Track. After you pass the Oral Assessment
2. Register for the Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT).
3. Take the FSOT. After you pass the FSOT:
4. Submit your Personal Narrative* (PN) to the Qualifications Evaluation Panel (QEP) for review. Other Considerations:
Veterans Preference, Foreign Languages, etc.
5. Take the Oral Assessment.
6. Clearances (Medical and Security).
7. Final Review.
8. The Register.

* The Personal Narrative should:
- Answer the question.
- Give positive examples that display the candidate’s skills and abilities.
- Identify learning experiences.
- Indicate how the candidate’s learning experience will contribute to success in the Foreign Service, in the chosen career track.