Virtually all respondents actively participated in extracurricular activities during their time in graduate school. They identified these activities, especially internships and fellowships outside of academia, as important elements for a successful transition to a career in science policy.

Among respondents, the most important skills needed for career success in science policy were communication abilities, both oral and written. Study participants frequently discussed the necessity of humility and respect to ensure a successful transition from academia to science policy.

Interviews for this report found that the skills developed through scientific training (blue) complement those provided in a policy background (lime) and that a successful career in science policy needs a combination of both.

**Benefits of science training**
- Resilience and persistence
- Analytical skills and curiosity
- Familiarity with uncertainty and nuance
- Knowledge of the scientific process

**Benefits of policy training**
- Understanding how the government works
- Interpersonal skills training (e.g. persuasion)
- Broad exposure to policy issues
- Practical policy skills (e.g. memo writing)

**Gaps in science training**
- Unfamiliarity with how the government works
- Insufficient communication skills training
- Reduced interpersonal skills practice
- Misunderstanding of policy inputs

**Gaps in policy training**
- Partial topic-area expertise
- Unfamiliarity with the scientific method
- Poor knowledge of the university research system
- Limited exposure to science policy

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sci.hms.harvard.edu  sci@hms.harvard.edu  @SCI_HarvardMed