PUBLIC INTEREST TECH
JOB SKILLS

Created by students and faculty at the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University, this draft taxonomy is for job-seekers, career counselors and hiring organizations. Download this 2-pager and learn more here.

General Knowledge/Previous Experience

Education and Training

Academic Fields of Study

- AI
- Art
- Child Development/Education
- Communications
- Computer Science
- Cybersecurity
- Data Management/Analytics/Science/Visualization Human-Centered Design
- Environmental Science
- Human Rights
- Humanities
- Law
- Philosophy/Ethics
- Privacy
- Public Policy
- Science
- Social Sciences
- Software Engineering
- Technology Strategy and Policy
- Urban Studies

Knowledge and skills
(regardless of educational field)

- Understanding of the motivations for and challenges of public interest technology
- Environmental Sustainability
- Assessment of new and emerging technologies for social impact
- Effective engagement with users
- Responsible deployment of technologies

Certifications

Environmental Sustainability

- CERES: Certification of Environmental Standards
- ESG: Environmental Social Governance
- FSA: Fundamentals of Sustainability Accounting
- GRI Standards: Global Reporting Initiative
- TCFD: Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

Blockchain/Cybersecurity

- CAP: Certified Authorization Professional
- CCSP: Certified Cloud Security Professional
- CEBA: Certified Enterprise Blockchain Architect
- CISSP: Certified Information Systems Security Professional
- CISM: Certified Information Security Manager
- CSSLP: Certified Secure Software Lifecycle Professional
- SSCP: Systems Security Certified Practitioner

Healthcare

- HCISPP: HealthCare Information Security and Privacy Practitioner

Project Management

- Agile process / framework

Skills

- Cybersecurity
- Data and Algorithms
- Data Science
- GIS
- IT Support
- Project Management
- Programming Languages
- Cloud/Libraries/APIs
- Protocols/Frameworks/Platforms
- Applications
- Software Development
- Statistics and Data Science in Social Sciences

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Personal Qualities and Passions

Soft Skills

Adaptability
Accountability
Building relationships
Care
Communication (Oral/Written)
Collaboration
Comfort with ambiguity
Commitment to social justice
Compassion
Content creation

Creativity
Curiosity
Detail-oriented
Determination
Empathy
Enthusiasm
Entrepreneurship
Flexibility
Focused
Grit
Growth Mindset

Humility
Initiative
Interest in social good
Independence
Leadership
Multitasking
Outreach
Ownership
Passion
Perseverance
Principled

Public interest
Public speaking
Reliability
Respectful
Self-starter
Stewardship
Time management
Transparency
Visionary
Willingness to learn

PIT Job Areas

Accessible/Inclusive Design
Equitable use
Flexibility in use
Physical effort required
Perceptible information

Cities/Urban Issues
Housing/Homelessness Infrastructure
Public Safety, Law Enforcement
Transportation
Business Recovery
Hunger/Food Security

Civic Engagement
Engagement
Direct service
Community collaboration
Fundraising and philanthropy
Political engagement

Connected Communities
Public/private partnerships
Equitable transit/ transportation
Neighborhood watch

Cybersecurity
Algorithmic fairness
Critical infrastructure
Cryptocurrency policy
Internet of Things
Privacy
National security

Democracy/Elections/ Electoral Services
Activism
Community Organizing
Election security

Education
Academia/Research
EdTech
Education Nonprofits
Higher Education
K-12 Education
Education Equity

Environmental Sustainability
Carbon Sequestration/ Clean Energy
Climate, Climate Policy
Conservation
Green Building
Environmental Justice
Land Management
Water Management

Ethics
Algorithmic Bias
Digital (Access) Equity
Transparency
Open Data
Data Standardization
Data Access
Fairness in hiring

Food & Agriculture
Autonomous farming
Weather forecasting
Smart greenhouses
Biotechnology/seed science
Online marketplaces
Supply chain automation

Government and Government Technology
Election integrity
GovTech/Civic Tech
Urban Policy
Tech Policy
Economic Policy

Healthcare
Childcare
Mental Health Services
Pharmaceuticals
Public Health
Telemedicine

Identity
Algorithmic bias
Inclusion
Perspectives of historically- marginalized groups
Online safety

Information Integrity
Aggregating/ anonymizing data
Data Ethics
Data Privacy
Data Security

Law/Legal Services
Bias
Criminal Justice
Legal Aid
Policing
Prison Reform
Victim Support
Fraud Prevention

Media/Journalism
Data Journalism
Social Media Integrity
Social Media Analytics
Media Representation (Parent Media, Black Media, Latino Media, and Youth Media)

Privacy
Aggregating/ anonymizing data
Digital security
Surveillance
Health information
Facial recognition
Geolocation
IoT data
Financial transactions

Racial Justice
Black-owned Businesses
Disability Services
Immigration/Refugee Services
LGBTQ+, LGBTQ youth
Gender equality
Racial Justice
Indigenous/Tribal communities
Economic mobility

Social Justice
Equal rights
Equal opportunity
Equal treatment

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