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.
2. Register for the Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT).
3. Take the FSOT.
4. Submit your Personal Narrative* (PN) to the Qualifications Evaluation Panel (QEP) for review.
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.
Remember:
- Three weeks after taking the FSOT, passers will be asked to provide a personal narrative.
- Personal narratives must be returned within three weeks.
- Notify ACT of any changes in email address at FSOT@ACT.org or call (800) 205-6358, or (319) 341-2500.

Qualifications Evaluations Panel: Assesses the personal narratives.
The Six Precepts are the basis for Qualifications Evaluation Panel:
- **Leadership**: innovation, decision making, teamwork, openness to dissent, community service and institution building
- **Interpersonal Skills**: professional standards, persuasion and negotiation, workplace perceptiveness, adaptability, representational skills
- **Communication Skills**: written communication, oral communication, active listening, public out-reach, foreign language skill
- **Management Skills**: operational effectiveness, performance management and evaluation, management resources, customer service
- **Intellectual Skills**: information gathering and analysis, critical thinking, active learning, leadership and management training
- **Substantive Knowledge**: Understanding of U.S. history/government/culture and application in dealing with other cultures. Knowledge and application of career-track relevant information.

Basis for Selection at Oral Assessment:
What qualities do we seek in FSO candidates? The successful candidate will demonstrate the following dimensions that reflect the skills, abilities, and personal qualities deemed essential to the work of the Foreign Service:

The Thirteen Dimensions

| Composure | Oral communication |
| Cultural adaptability | Planning and organizing |
| Experience and motivation | Quantitative analysis |
| Information integration and analysis | Resourcefulness |
| Initiative and leadership | Working with others |
| Judgment | Written communication |
| Objectivity and integrity |

Please note that we require no specific education level, academic major, or proficiency in a foreign language for appointment as a Foreign Service Officer.

FSOT Test is offered in February, June and October each year.

careers.state.gov