



PHILIP KIBBEY is a Financial Disclosure Specialist at the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics. He graduated from Cal Poly in 2010 with a degree in Political Science.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Philip Kibbey

A Political Science degree always seemed to be a perfect fit for Philip Kibbey, whose innate interest in political theory led to the creation of an independent study within the department that synthesized political theory with pre-law. Philip credits his fascination with political theory partly as a direct link to the concentration's counterintuitive ability to remain practical both in the classroom and in a professional setting, in addition to its theoretical underpinnings. As Philip entered his career, his Political Science degree allowed him the confidence to handle any task asked of him.

After graduating in 2010, Philip pursued a life in Washington, D.C., where he landed a job as an assistant with the Senate Select Committee on Ethics, helping manage the Senate's public financial disclosure system. A job that began with completing administration tasks led to two and a half years working as a legal assistant, focusing on financial disclosure. After the European Finance Crisis in 2012, Philip became interested in finance, which led him to embark upon a position first as an analyst, and then as a Team Lead at Cambridge Associates, where he managed a team of six analysts helping clients with their finances and analyzing their hedge funds. Philip

spent more than year at Cambridge Associates until the Ethics Committee asked him to return as a Financial Disclosure Specialist where he spends half of his job figuring out disclosures and working with senators. Meanwhile, the other half is spent creating software for an electronic financial disclosure system (eFD) for which he is the product owner. Philip recalls being asked to return to the Ethics Committee at such a young age as a significant accomplishment in his life. Currently, Philip spends his time corresponding with senators about their financial disclosure, continuing to develop the eFD application, assisting senators with their financial reports, and reviewing their amended financial reports.

Philip has always appreciated the practicality of the degree as it teaches students how to think, write effectively, and approach and execute problems. One of Philip's largest obstacles that he faced in his career occurred while he was helping a Cambridge Associates client with a very sophisticated and large financial report. Devotion to such a project meant logging long hours and working with large sums of money. This job meant having to learn advanced financial products concepts on the spot with the pressure to not make any mistakes. While a task like that could be quite daunting, Philip felt prepared to reach success through both his experience at Cal Poly and his political science classes.

Philip's career at the Ethics Committee developed through his enjoyment of constituent work, which led him to move to Washington, D.C., and apply for work in the Senate. For students who also have aspirations of working in government and even in following Philip's footsteps in the future, he advises to begin with internships. Internships are beneficial in helping to narrow down one's interests, which is why it is important to take them seriously. Fortunately, the government provides opportunities to discover internships and build networks. Even something as simple as talking to someone in government to see what they do can help with networking and illustrate the array of different options out there for career paths. Another excellent way to help secure a foot in the door of a government job is to work on a political campaign as they can also lead to permanent opportunities. Whichever path is chosen, student should remember to focus on being a strong worker as employers notice strong workers, especially in small offices.

For Cal Poly students as a whole, Philip would like to remind students that it is okay to be unsure of the future at this moment in their lives. Extensive

pressure is placed on young people to know what they want to do, but it is okay to explore interests and change one's mind while one is young. Moreover, it is okay to try out different things, even if failure results. Follow all passions and embrace any fears of the unknown. This is the time to have fun, experience great things, meet people, make connections, try new adventures, and take advantage of different opportunities. Finally, enjoy life and enjoy the university while there because it will be missed after graduation.