

# 8

## STEPS TO BECOMING A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER

### STEP 1: CHOOSE A CAREER TRACK ?

While all U.S. diplomats are expected to communicate U.S. foreign policy and interact effectively with host country governments to help advance U.S. interests worldwide, each career track has a specific focus. You may not change career tracks once during the selection process.

Learn more about each career track



CONSULAR



ECONOMIC



MANAGEMENT



POLITICAL



PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

### STEP 2: SUBMIT FSO APPLICATION ?

You can apply during three, five-week windows each year. You begin your application at [PearsonVue.com/FSOT](https://www.pearsonvue.com/FSOT), where you will need to create an account. The application includes completed eligibility verification, application forms, and completed personal narratives. Once your completed application is submitted, you will be able to register for a seat for the FSOT.



Apply to become an FSO

### STEP 3: TAKE THE FSOT ?

You may register to take the FSOT until the application deadline closes or until capacity is reached. You cannot register until your FSO application is complete. Pearson VUE, the test administrator, will send you a confirmation email on the first business day after you register. Be sure to arrive at the scheduled test center with your admissions letter and a valid government-issued photo ID.

Take quizzes on our [DOSCareers app](#) to practice for the test. Then take the [Practice FSOT](#) to experience a realistic preview and receive an estimate of your possible FSOT score.



Take the practice FSOT

### STEP 4: QUALIFICATIONS EVALUATION PANEL ?

Your FSOT score and your application will be reviewed. Successful candidates will be invited to the Oral Assessment.



### STEP 5: TAKE THE ORAL ASSESSMENT ?

This day-long assessment measures your ability to demonstrate the **13 Dimensions** that are essential to the successful performance of Foreign Service work.



Learn more about the 13 Dimensions

### STEP 6: CLEARANCES - MEDICAL & SECURITY ?

After you pass the Oral Assessment, you will receive instructions about obtaining medical and security clearances. Visit the [Career Resources Download Center](#) for a list of forms intended for those who have received conditional offers of employment after the Oral Assessment.



Visit the Download Center

### STEP 7: SUITABILITY REVIEW PANEL ?

A Suitability Review Panel will examine your completed file (**except for medical records**) to determine your suitability for employment with the Foreign Service.



### STEP 8: THE REGISTER ?

After you've successfully passed all steps, your name is placed on the Register, which is a rank-ordered list of successful candidates, sorted by career track.

