

CAREER ROADMAP

How to Become a Technology Policy Advisor: A Complete Roadmap

A Technology Policy Advisor guides organizations through fast-changing technology regulation, from AI to privacy to platform governance. The roadmap: responsibilities, skills, degrees, certifications, and the path to Head of Public Policy.

IN THIS ROADMAP

- What the role does
- Core responsibilities
- Skills you need
- Recommended education
- Helpful certifications
- Tools and frameworks to know

A free career roadmap from GRC Careers · AGJ, the AI governance job board

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A **Technology Policy Advisor** helps organizations, government agencies, nonprofits, or executives understand and respond to public policy issues involving emerging technologies. Where an [AI Policy Analyst](#) focuses mainly on AI, a Technology Policy Advisor usually works across a broader set of issues, including AI, data privacy, cybersecurity, digital platforms, content moderation, competition policy, digital trade, surveillance technology, and public-sector technology use.

AI is now central to many technology-policy roles, because governments worldwide are actively building AI rules and oversight models. The [EU AI Act](#) is one major example of a risk-based AI legal framework.

WHAT THE ROLE DOES

Technology Policy Advisors assess how new technology laws affect an organization, what policy risks executives should understand, how to respond to proposed regulations, and what position to take with lawmakers, regulators, or industry groups. They produce policy briefs, executive memos, legislative updates, advocacy strategies, and stakeholder engagement plans.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Track emerging laws, regulations, and policy debates
- Advise executives on technology policy risk
- Draft policy positions and public comments
- Prepare briefing materials for leadership
- Engage with agencies, trade associations, civil society, and standards bodies
- Analyze global regulatory trends and prepare for compliance obligations
- Translate policy developments into business implications

SKILLS YOU NEED

Policy strategy: legislative analysis, regulatory affairs, public policy research, stakeholder mapping, advocacy strategy, and public-comment drafting. **Technology literacy:** the basics of AI systems, data flows, cybersecurity risk, platform governance, digital identity, cloud services, and automated decision-making. **Communication:** persuasive, clear writing for executives, regulators, and internal teams. **Strategic judgment:** the ability to read not only what a law says, but where policy momentum is heading.

RECOMMENDED EDUCATION

- Public Policy, Public Administration, or Political Science
- Law or International Relations
- Technology Policy or Cybersecurity Policy
- Economics, Information Systems, or AI Governance

See our [AI governance degree pathways guide](#) for how these degrees compare.

HELPFUL CERTIFICATIONS

AIGP, CIPP/E or CIPP/US and CIPM, CISA or CRISC, and public policy or regulatory affairs certificates.

TOOLS AND FRAMEWORKS TO KNOW

The [EU AI Act](#), [NIST AI Risk Management Framework](#), the [OECD AI Principles](#), [ISO/IEC 42001](#), GDPR and major privacy laws, cybersecurity frameworks, and public-sector AI guidance. The OECD describes its AI Principles as

practical, flexible standards for trustworthy AI.

CAREER PATH

Policy Associate → Technology Policy Analyst → Technology Policy Advisor → Senior Technology Policy Advisor → Director of Technology Policy → Head of Public Policy / Government Affairs

PORTFOLIO PROJECTS THAT HELP YOU GET HIRED

- An executive briefing on AI regulation
- A public comment on proposed technology rules
- A global AI policy tracker
- A technology risk landscape memo
- A stakeholder engagement strategy
- A board memo on emerging regulatory risk

KEY TAKEAWAY

A Technology Policy Advisor helps organizations navigate fast-changing technology regulation. It is ideal for people who combine policy judgment, communication skills, and enough technical literacy to advise credibly on AI and other emerging technologies.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is a Technology Policy Advisor different from an AI Policy Analyst?

An AI Policy Analyst focuses mainly on AI laws and standards. A Technology Policy Advisor works across a broader set of issues, including AI, privacy, cybersecurity, platforms, and competition policy, and leans more toward strategy and government affairs.

What background do Technology Policy Advisors usually have?

Common paths include government affairs, public policy, law, international relations, communications, and think tanks, as well as compliance, privacy, and cybersecurity for those moving from the technical side.

Do I need to be technical for this role?

You need enough technical literacy to advise credibly, covering AI systems, data flows, cybersecurity risk, and automated decision-making, but the role emphasizes policy judgment and communication over engineering skills.

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