

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE



“Congressional Watchdog”

- One of 7 agencies under legislative branch
- Main Job: Investigate how taxpayer money is spent
- The GAO does this by:
 - Auditing federal agencies
 - Investigate allegations of illegal activity
 - Report how well programs meet objectives
 - Perform policy analysis for Congress
 - Issue legal decisions and opinions

Financial Info

- Budget: \$553.1 million
- Support over 3000 full time staff
- Work results in ~\$50 billion US dollars saved
- Return on investment for GAO spending: ~\$100 for every dollar spent

History

- Founded in 1921 as the General Accounting Office (name changed in 2004)
- Wartime spending had driven up federal debt and needed another way to keep track of it
- Made to be independent of executive branch
- Mainly checked legitimacy of government spending before WWII
- Drastically increased the amount of audits during Roosevelt's tenure

History

- After WWII – GAO changed its role in government – evaluated general fiscal efficiency rather than all financial transactions
- 1952 – established regional field offices
- 1960s & 1970s – opened offices in Europe and Far East
- 1974 – Congress expands GAO evaluation role → GAO started to hire experts in various fields
- 1986 – Team assembled to look into criminal accusations

Comptroller General

- Head of the GAO
- Works in non-partisan and non-ideological manner with Congress and external parties
- Appointed by President of United States with the advice and consent of the Senate for 15 year term
 - Congress usually presents list of candidates prepared by bipartisan, bicameral congressional commission
- Current Comptroller General: Gene L. Dodaro
 - 40 year GAO career preceding appointment
 - 9 years as Chief Operating Officer



Comptroller General

Public
Affairs

Strategic
Planning

Congress
Relations

Inspector
General

Inclusiveness

General Counsel

Chief Operating Officer

Chief Financial Officer

Deputy General
Counsel/Ethics
Counselor
Managing Associate:
Goal 1
Goal 2
Goal 3
Procurement Law
Mission & Operations

Chief
Quality
Officer

Continuous Process
Improvement
Mission Teams

Deputy Chief
Administrative Officer
Field Operations
Human Capital
Financial Management
Business Operations
Infrastructure
Operations
IT
Professional
Development

Mission Teams

- Acquisition & Sourcing Management
- **Applied Research and Methods**
- Defense Capabilities and Management
- Education, Workforce, and Income Security
- Financial Management Assurance
- Financial Markets and Community Investments
- Forensic Audits and Investigative Service
- Health Care
- Homeland Security and Justice
- International Affairs and Trade
- Information Technology
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Physical Infrastructure
- Strategic Issues

Applied Research and Methods

- Provide technical support to GAO and Congress
- Economics
- Design, Methods, and Analysis
- Evaluation Methods and Issues
- *Center for Science Technology and Engineering*

Center for Science Technology and Engineering: Technology Assessments

- Balanced reports on new technologies – their impact on society and how to regulate them
- Headed by Chief Scientist – Tim Persons and Chief Technologist - Nabajyoti Barkakati
- One of the main sources Congress has for sound scientific research and data

My Project – Sustainable Chemical Manufacturing

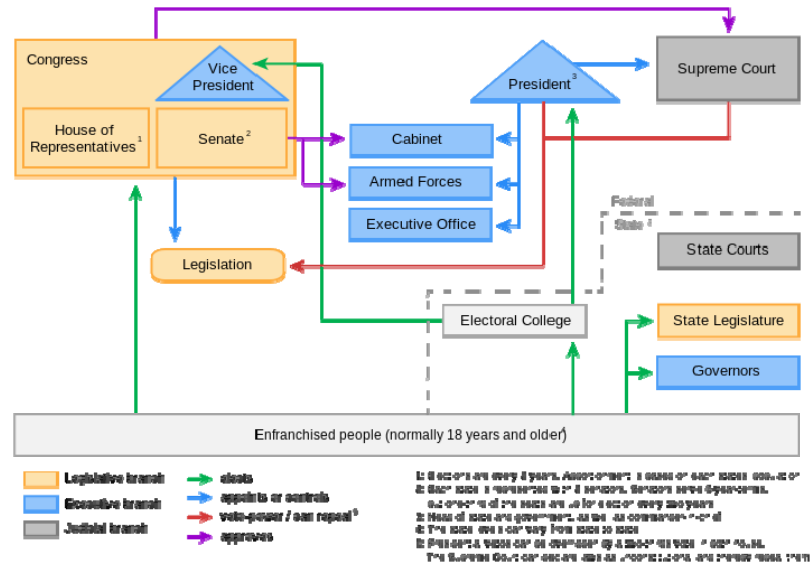
- Investigating sustainable chemistry in the product lifecycle
- Information gathering part of project
- Consulting with industry & federal agencies

Two Main Components in Internship

Insight into Chemical Manufacturing



Insight into Political Process



Questions?

