



Senior Postsecondary Policy Analyst

“The progress that our students have made in recent years is inspiring – there is no doubt that they are capable of achieving at high levels and leading Tennessee into a bright future. While education stakeholders are already working together in exciting ways in Tennessee, it is our responsibility to redouble our innovative efforts to ensure that we are supporting our students to truly excel and thrive. The future of our state depends on it.”

- Senator Bill Frist, Chairman and Founder, SCORE

ABOUT SCORE

Tennessee has been making significant progress in advancing a bold education reform plan over the last decade and is now a leader in the nation in dramatically improving student achievement. Tennessee is among the fastest improving states for student achievement according to the Nation’s Report Card.

While Tennessee has made significant gains, there is much still to do – in public K-12 education, in college and career readiness, and in postsecondary completion. The State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) plays a critical role in advancing student achievement, aligning K-12 and postsecondary, and ensuring that all students can achieve career and life success. We work to monitor statewide progress in support of a prioritized agenda that drives collaboration across the state on policy while generating proof points and providing targeted support for implementation across the state.

SCORE is an independent, nonprofit, and nonpartisan organization founded by former US Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and is dedicated to the goal that all students can achieve success in college, career, and life. SCORE supports student success in public schools across Tennessee by ensuring all schools and systems meet high expectations; preparing, recruiting, supporting, and retaining excellent teachers and leaders; and aligning K-12 and college with career and life success.

SCORE is based at Vanderbilt University’s John Seigenthaler Center. For more information on SCORE, please visit www.tnscore.org.

POSITION OVERVIEW

SCORE’s Senior Postsecondary Policy Analyst will play a critical role in advancing the organization’s work and Tennessee’s efforts to improve student achievement. Thought leadership lies at the core of SCORE’s mission, and the kind it seeks to provide – objective, fact-based, and solution-oriented – will rely on the outstanding policy insight that the person who fills this position will have.

The Senior Postsecondary Policy Analyst will support SCORE’s efforts in

- 1) Assessing the ability of statewide policies in meeting SCORE’s goals for postsecondary success, including access, persistence, completion, and career/economic success.
- 2) Leading substantial areas of SCORE’s policy development and analysis work to inform policy change, advocacy efforts, and implementation support.
- 3) Proactively anticipating and assessing ways of overcoming barriers to reform.
- 4) Building relationships with key local, state, and national external policy partners.

This position requires an independent, data-driven, and rigorous strategic thinker who is also able to work in close and productive collaboration with SCORE colleagues and with public officials, policy leaders, postsecondary campus leaders, and researchers at the state and local levels. The Senior Postsecondary Policy Analyst will report to SCORE's Senior Director of Public Affairs.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Key responsibilities of the Senior Postsecondary Policy Analyst include but are not limited to:

- Work with SCORE team members to provide strategic thought leadership on postsecondary education policy issues and priorities affecting Tennessee
- In consultation with SCORE leadership and stakeholders across the state, support the development of a policy agenda that will illuminate and help advance SCORE's goals
- Analyze and comment on current and potential policies, legislation, and rules that could impact postsecondary education in Tennessee
- Lead and manage the analysis of key education legislation filed in the Tennessee General Assembly and prepare bill summaries for distribution both internally and externally, providing timely and thorough analysis of these proposals
- Monitor, summarize, and analyze policy proposals from the Tennessee Board of Regents, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and other state agencies, providing timely and thorough analysis of these proposals
- Monitor meetings of the Tennessee Board of Regents, the University of Tennessee system, the locally governed universities, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, legislative committees, and other relevant state policymakers, and attend as needed
- Manage comprehensive policy projects from concept to release, including: outlining project vision, building project plans, analyzing data, analyzing policy, reviewing research, making policy and practice recommendations, and presenting findings through written reports and public presentations
- Identify emerging national policy best practices and consider how those policies could fit the Tennessee context
- Serve as a policy support and thought partner for SCORE team members during research and data projects, outreach campaigns, and legislative sessions
- Represent SCORE at external meetings and conferences
- Contribute to developing, managing, and reporting on budgets for specific policy and research-related projects, in consultation with the Vice President of Finance & Operations and Staff Accountant
- Contribute regular posts to the SCORE blog
- Collaborate with SCORE team members to share policy developments to stakeholders (e.g., webinars, convenings, conferences)
- Collaborate frequently with SCORE's Senior K-12 Policy Analyst

CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

SCORE is looking for an innovative and driven individual with a passion for improving education in Tennessee. The Senior Postsecondary Policy Analyst must have at least three to five years of demonstrated experience in postsecondary education policy and must be able to work in close and productive collaboration with SCORE colleagues, public policy leaders, public officials, and other postsecondary education stakeholders at the local, state, and national level. Experience in innovation-focused policy is preferred.

Candidates must have a bachelor's degree, and a master's degree in public policy or related field, is preferred. Other candidate requirements include:

- Deep knowledge of major postsecondary education policy issues at both the state and federal level
- The ability to review and analyze education policy proposals with an eye toward positive impact on Tennessee students and the ability to be adept at turning policy ideas into legislative and policy proposals
- Mindfulness around how to advance student-focused policy in particular political contexts
- The ability to proactively identify policy trends, identify gaps in the field, and activate an appropriate response
- Excellent writing skills with the ability to convey complex concepts in concise and compelling ways
- High emotional intelligence and understanding of political nuance
- Strong spoken communication skills and comfort speaking to both large and small groups
- Outstanding commitment to excellence and attention to detail
- The ability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously in a fast-paced, rapid-growth, high-intensity, and intellectually demanding environment
- The ability to problem solve in the moment and pro-actively consult with other team members as appropriate
- Immediate exhibiting of SCORE's core values of collaboration, excellence, optimism, innovation, and courage

SCORE provides excellent opportunities for professional growth and has a commitment to providing team members with feedback and opportunities to grow in their work.

COMPENSATION

Compensation will be competitive based on the candidate's previous experience and credentials.

TO APPLY

To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to SCORE's Senior Director of Public Affairs, Taylor Hall, at taylor@tnscore.org. Please submit application by Friday, August 30, 2019. If you have any questions about the position, please contact Taylor at that email address or by phone at 615-727-1545.