

Cabinet Departments

AP Exam
Study Tool

DEPARTMENT	Year Created	Major Functions/Responsibilities
Agriculture	1889	Oversees national forests & conservation efforts, responsible for safety of meat, poultry, and egg products, and attempts to provide open foreign markets for American agricultural products.
Commerce	1903	“to foster, serve, and promote the Nation’s economic development and technological development.”
Defense	1947	Manages the nation’s military and headquartered at the Pentagon
Education	1979	Manages federal student aid programs, monitors academic performance nationwide, administers federal education legislation like No Child Left Behind Act.
Energy	1977	Manages the nation’s nuclear weapons and energy, develops energy policies, and conducts energy research.
Health & Human Services	1953	Conducts health research, manages efforts to prevent disease, manages Medicare and Medicaid, pursues efforts to remedy societal ills like drug abuse and child abuse.
Homeland Security	2002	Oversees a wide range of federal agencies to help them coordinate plans to confront national emergencies and threats to national security.
Housing & Urban Development	1965	Strives to increase domestic homeownership and improve access to affordable housing free of discrimination.
Interior	1849	Manages conservation efforts, national parks, and environmental protection.
Justice	1870	Enforces federal laws by taking offenders to court, investigates and detains offenders through the FBI.
Labor	1913	Looks out for “job seekers, wage earners, and retirees” by administering federal labor laws and providing services like connecting potential employers to unemployed workers.
State	1789	Chief engine of American diplomacy in executive branch, also manages American travel overseas.
Transportation	1966	Manages national transportation infrastructure like highways, air traffic, and railways.
Treasury	1789	Manages federal finances, collects taxes, produces stamps, and provides government advice on matters of economic policy.
Veterans Affairs	1988	Provides for the healthcare, benefits, and memorial service needs of veterans.