

CURSUS HONORUM

(the career path for Roman politicians)

Quaestor (20, minimum age of 30, although patricians could be 28) treasurer

Aedile (4, minimum age of 36) city manager
in charge of maintaining bridges, sewers, roads, putting on public games and feasts.
This position was not prerequisite for further office, but it was still a customary step.

Praetor (6 to 8, minimum age of 39) judge
propraetor governor of a province after term as praetor (the typical term was one year)

Consul—2 (minimum age of 42, although patricians could be 40) --president
Proconsul—governor of a province after term as consul (this office was typically one year but could be prolonged in the event of a military emergency).

Other offices

Tribune of the Plebs

This job was open to plebeians, and the tribune had two main jobs—to introduce legislation to the Tribal/Plebeian assemblies, and the veto actions of magistrates. There were ten tribunes, and in the event that one might get out of hand, the Senate often would prevail upon another tribune to use his veto.

Dictator and Magister Equitum

In the event of a military emergency, the Senate would appoint a Dictator; he would appoint his own *magister equitum* (Master of the Horses), as his second-in-command. As can be imagined, the dictator had complete and supreme power, but it was expected that he would lay down his office when the emergency was over.

Censor

Elected for an 18-month term every five years. He would enroll new citizens, tribes, and clear the ranks of the Senators

Princeps Senatus (First Man of the Senate)

This position was filled every five years, by the censors. Originally it was honorific, but over time, he could open and close discussion on a bill in the Senate. The *princeps senatus* had to be a patrician, and was chosen from among senators who had been a consul already.

Imperium (this can be defined as legally-designated power); the crucial idea here is that the power of Roman magistrates was limited in terms of space (physical boundaries) and time (it would end at a designated time).