



Internship Program
Department of Political Science
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THE POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Department of Political Science's Internship Program, established in 1971, was the first of its kind in Maryland. It provides students with the opportunity to augment their academic preparation with a guided work experience in an agency of local, state or national government or a related organization. In recent years student internship experiences have included service in the United States Congress, the Maryland General Assembly, local courts, public interest lobbying groups, and the U.S. Department of State. The program stresses the value of a full-time internship experience; part-time internships are also available for students whose needs are better served in that manner.

PURPOSE

The political science internship program is designed to provide qualified junior or senior majors and other selected individuals with the opportunity to draw upon, expand, and test classroom learning in an organizational setting. The internship experience is closely related to the student's career plans and academic preparation. Through the experience the student observes the application of ideas and attains a level of understanding which cannot be achieved in the classroom.

PLACEMENT, DURATION, AND ACADEMIC CREDIT

Every effort is made to place students in a full-time or part-time assignment of their choice in accordance with their needs and goals. Students receive either 15 credits for a full-time or 9 credits for a part-time experience. Full-time interns are expected to work five days a week, normally for a period of time coinciding with the college's spring semester or summer term schedule of classes; part-time interns are expected to work three days a week or the equivalent.

COMPENSATION

The primary purpose of the internship is academic, that is, to advance learning through application. Any compensation for interns is a matter between the student and the host organization. The University has no policy regarding monetary compensation.

GUIDELINES ON THE USE OF INTERNS

The internship should be a valuable experience in the life of the student. It should be structured in a way that provides maximum opportunity for learning, growth, and the formulation of future career goals. At the same time, the intern should provide useful and productive service for the host organization. The Department of Political Science believes that the interest of all parties are best served when the intern and field supervisor are allowed some flexibility in defining the student's activities. The field supervisor is expected to maintain regular contact with the intern and to make sure that the student understand what is expected. Although interns should anticipate doing a share of errands and clerical work, the field supervisor should ensure that the student has as much opportunity as possible to become involved in the substance of the agency's or organization's activities.

INTERNSHIP SEMINAR

In addition to the field experience, students are required to participate in the political science internship seminar. Seminar sessions are held on campus five times during the term. The purpose of the seminar is to provide students with an opportunity to share their insights, to explore the links between students' academic preparation and their field work, and to assist participants in developing and carrying out the major research project which will serve to culminate their internship experience. In addition to the major research paper, students will be required to submit several brief reports.

EVALUATION

Evaluation of the intern's performance is principally the responsibility of the faculty intern director drawing upon the input of the field supervisor. Field supervisors are to evaluate in writing once during the term of the student's performance. In addition, the field supervisor may discuss the intern's performance with the faculty intern director by phone and during the on-site visit(s) which occur during the term.

PROBLEMS

If problems arise in the field, whether from the perspective of the student or the field supervisor, the Director should be consulted. The address and phone number for the Director are listed below. In the rare instance that serious problems do arise, every reasonable effort must be made to resolve them in a manner that permits the internship to be completed.

For more information, please contact:

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