

Political Science 476

Internship in Government/Politics

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Office Hours:

And by appointment

Course Description: The internship in government and/or politics is designed to give students the opportunity to gain practical experience working for government, public service organizations, political campaigns and related fields.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will gain practical “real world” experience in the field.
2. Students will apply class room knowledge to dealing with and solving problems related to human beings in their social and political lives.
3. Students will understand the relationship between their own education and potential careers.
4. Students will make professional contacts to assist in networking and career after matriculation.

Course Requirements:

1. Students will work for a minimum of 120 hours in a government office, non-governmental (NGO) office, political campaign, party or interest group office, law office, or other approved setting.
2. Interns are expected to act with complete professionalism in fulfilling their responsibilities. An important aspect of professionalism is respecting the confidentiality of documents and communications.
3. Students will keep a journal recording their on-the-job activities and their reflections on those activities. The journal entries should not only describe what was done but should also relate experiences to the broader concerns of a university education. In other words, the significance and implications of internship experiences should be examined. Whenever appropriate, the journal observations should be specifically linked to topics considered in Political Science classes. Journal entries should be neatly typed and each entry’s length will vary. Information and impressions recorded in the journal will be kept confidential. About one-fourth of the way into the internship, students will submit journals completed thus far to the Internship Advisor. Journals should be submitted again at three-to-four week intervals.

4. Unless interns are working a considerable distance from Commerce, they will visit with the Internship Advisor several times during the term to keep the Internship Advisor informed of activities, possible problems, etc. The first conference will be held about a week after the initial journals have been submitted. A schedule of subsequent conferences will be developed as the term proceeds.

5. Students will complete any readings assigned by the Internship Advisor that will enrich their internship experience.

6. At the end of the internship, students will complete an evaluation form and submit a paper providing an overview of the internship and an analysis of what they learned from it. Internship readings and other sources should help inform the paper. Suggested length is approximately 1,200-1,500 words.

7. A letter from the student's supervisor evaluating his or her performance will be submitted to the Internship Advisor at the end of the internship period.

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132; Phone (903) 886-5150