Students from San Jose State University may apply for the Truax Scholarship; contact the political science office at San Jose State for details.

Most financial aid grants may be transferred from the student’s home campus to California State University, Sacramento for the program.

**Application Criteria**

Students from all majors are encouraged to apply; state government has need of and opportunity for students with training in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Sacramento Semester students must be in their junior or senior year.

Among selection criteria are grade-point average, strong writing skills, employment history, and extra curricular activities.

Applications are initially screened on your home campus by the program’s faculty representative and then sent to Sacramento for final acceptance. There is a representative in the political science department of your campus who helps with questions and application procedures.

**Calendar**

**November:**
Application deadline is the first Friday of November. Turn in your completed application to the program’s faculty representative in the political science department on your campus.

**December:**
You will receive notification of acceptance into the program in early December. This will be followed by preliminary information about course registration, housing, the Sacramento area, etc.

**January:**
The program begins with the start of the spring semester in late January. An orientation is held Wednesday through Friday the week before classes begin. After preliminary interviews, internship placements are made.

**May:**
The program ends in late May.

For more information and an application, contact the political science department office on your home campus, or contact:

Sacramento Semester Program
Professor Michael Wadlé, Director
wadlem@csus.edu
Department of Government
California State University, Sacramento
6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819-6089
(916) 278-4012

2009 Sacramento Semester students Darryl Lucien (CSU Long Beach), Kourtney Bell (CSU East Bay), and Izhar Manzoor (CSU Northridge).

Current and former Sacramento Semester students with Assembly Chief Clerk Dotson Wilson.

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www.csus.edu/govt

“The personal contacts that I developed in and around the Capitol helped me land my first job. I was present when my legislator telephoned my future employer on my behalf.”

California State University, Sacramento
Active Learning at Its Best

The Sacramento Semester Program, established in 1976 at California State University, Sacramento is active learning at its best. As the most populous state in the U.S., California has a large and complex state government that deals with public policy on virtually all the issues that confront the nation.

The Sacramento Semester Program offers you, as a student at one of the 23 California State University campuses or other colleges or universities, the opportunity to work with members of the Legislature, the executive branch, or with political associations and lobbyists during a 4 ½ month internship. Typically, Sacramento Semester students conduct legislative research, monitor bills, correspond with constituents or grassroots membership, prepare press releases, develop newsletters and participate in budget work and campaign planning.

Sacramento Semester alumni are found in top positions throughout state government. You’ll meet many of them, along with our political practitioners from inside and outside the press corps, and constitutional officers at regular seminar/guest speaker sessions. The seminars, held at Sacramento State and in the Capitol, provide background and depth to your internship experience.

Students also will benefit from activities of other programs offered at California State University, Sacramento — including the Center for California Studies, the Master’s Program in Public Policy and Administration, and the Department of Government. The Sacramento State campus, home to more than 29,000 undergraduate and graduate students, is located just five miles from the Capitol.

Academic Credit

The Sacramento Semester Program is a spring semester program. You will receive six semester units (Credit/No credit) for working 25 hours per week in your intern placement. An additional six semester units (letter graded) are awarded for successful completion of the seminar. Academic units are transferred through the CSU IntraSystem Visitor program to your home campus. Additional courses may be taken.

Policy Seminars and Friday Morning Conversations

Sacramento Semester students are required to attend a Thursday night seminar on California policy and politics at the Sacramento State campus. This seminar is specifically designed to allow the students to share their personal experiences when examining the theory and reality of California’s policy-making process.

Also, each Friday morning, Sacramento Semester students meet with key policy makers at the Capitol. The Friday Morning Conversations include question-and-answer sessions with senators, Assembly members, lobbyists, committee consultants, members of the media and the governor’s staff.

These conversations provide an excellent opportunity to build important personal relationships inside and outside the Capitol.

Financial Aid

If you are a student at one of the 23 California State University campuses, you are eligible for one of the 10 state-funded scholarships of $4,000 to help cover the cost of relocating to Sacramento for the program. The award is made based on the excellence of your qualifications and financial need. Contact your political science department for more information or an application.

Sacramento Semester Program applicants are also eligible to apply for a smaller amount of assistance from the Sacramento Semester Endowment.


The Sacramento Semester Program helps you to:

- Acquire valuable skills, experiences and contacts that will enhance your career prospects.
- Balance and complete your academic preparation with practical experience.
- Meet leading personalities in California government and politics.
- Understand what’s behind the news headlines about state government.
- Contribute to the formation of public policy in California -- the eighth-largest economy in the world.

“Networking is key in the Capitol environment. As a Sacramento Semester student, you already have a built-in network and support system...students from your class and former Sacramento Semester students who have worked in the Capitol for years.”

“This program is quite simply the best and only way to learn about state government. The time spent in class reinforces the lessons of the work-place by adding background and depth.”