



The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

Congressional Internship Program Description

The Panetta Institute extends its mission of service through its *Congressional Internship Program*. This program is open to undergraduate students in their junior or senior year with an interest in public service within any academic discipline from the twenty-three California State Universities and three private colleges and universities. This internship provides the opportunity to work and live within the rich cultural, historical and political heritage of our nation's capital. As interns with Congress, students gain firsthand exposure to the American political process while attaining professional learning experience that offers meaningful, practical work experience and provides an opportunity for career exploration and development.

The sponsor and donors of the Panetta Institute make it possible to offer this opportunity without regard to a student's financial background. Since the Panetta Institute pays all expenses, any qualified student can participate regardless of family income. Student selection is based on exemplary scholastic record, potential for a public service career and interest in politics.

Two-Week Orientation

A fundamental part of the *Congressional Internship Program* academic curriculum is the two-week orientation designed to supplement the intern's experience through attending and participating in the class sessions, and then completing reflective, substantive session reviews. Experts in their respective fields' present seminars during this orientation. During the first week of the orientation, seminars concentrate on: United States Congress, the legislative process of regular order, House of Representatives parliamentary rules and procedures, budget and appropriations process, congressional committees and structure, elections, congressional-presidential relations, federal and state relations, American jurisprudence as lead by the U.S. Supreme Court and the role of a free press in a democracy.

Guest Speakers

In 2024, the two-week orientation included a series of seminars presented by Secretary Leon E. Panetta on Defense Policy, Cyber-Security, National Security, Congressional Structure and Committees and Foreign Policy. In addition to Secretary Panetta's seminars a total of forty-nine experts consisting of distinguished representatives from Congress, government agencies, military, press, academia and public policy institutes addressed the interns with their unique insights and expertise during the course of forty-three seminars.

- The Founders and the Creation of the American Republic*
The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, Chairman of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy
- Congressional Leadership, Committees and Policymaking*
The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, Chairman of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy
- The Presidency, the White House and the Executive Branch*
The Hon. Dan Quayle, Forty-Fourth Vice President of the United States
- History of Congress—The Historical Background to Current Congressional Dysfunction*
Richard Kezirian, Ph.D., Professor, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy
- The Role and Responsibilities of the U.S. Intelligence Community*
Jeremy Bash, Esq., Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Defense (2011-2013)
Chief of Staff to the Director of the CIA (2009-2011)
- United States Foreign and Defense Policies: Global Flash Points*
The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, Chairman of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy
- Foreign Policy in the Middle East*
Matthew Spence, J.D., Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Middle East (2012-2015)
- The Impact of the Press and Media on Politics*
Dan Balz, Chief Correspondent, *The Washington Post*
Carla Marinucci, Senior Write, Politico California Playbook
- Fiscal and Monetary Policies*
Maya MacGuineas, President, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget
- The Policy Making Process*
Sonia Banks, Esq., Professor, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy
- The Judiciary: Recent Supreme Court Decisions*
The Honorable Ming Chin, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California (1996-2020)
- California's Relationship with Washington, D.C.: Differences between the Federal and State Governments*
The Honorable Sam Farr, United States Representative, District 20 (2013-2017)
District 17 (1993-2013)
- California Politics and Governance: The Relationship between Local and State Governments*
The Honorable Simón Salinas, California State Assembly, District Twenty-Eight (2000-2006); Monterey County Board of Supervisors, District Three (2006-2018)
- Effective Oral and Written Communication Skills*
Sonia Banks, Esq., Professor, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy
- Criminal Justice Reform*
Heather Harris, Ph.D., Research Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California
- Presidential-Congressional Relations: How Congress Works—A Realistic View*
James Copeland, White House Deputy Assistant to President Jimmy Carter

- (1977-1979)
Les Francis, Deputy White House Chief to President Jimmy Carter (1977-1979)
- Balancing the California Budget: An Exercise*
Stephanie Leonard, Communications Project Manager, Next 10
- Congressional Gridlock and Partisanship*
The Honorable Blake Moore, United States Representative Utah, District One
The Honorable Josh Gottheimer, United States Representative, New Jersey, District Five
- Economic and Budget Policies of the United States*
Joe Minarik, Ph.D., Chief Economist, Office of Management and Budget
(1993-2001)
- California's Natural Resources: Water, Energy and Fire*
The Honorable John Laird, California State Senator, District 17, California Secretary of
Natural Resources Agency (2011-2019)
- Congress and Cybersecurity Issues: The Links Between Cybersecurity and National Security*
John Arquilla, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Defense
Analysis, Naval Postgraduate School
- Economic and Trade Policies of the United States*
Joe Minarik, Ph.D., Chief Economist, Office of Management and Budget
(1993-2001)
- Consensus Building: From the Legislative Perspective*
The Honorable Jim Cunneen, California State Assembly, District 24, (1994-2000)
The Honorable Fred Keeley, California State Assembly, District 27, (1996-2002)
- Consensus Building Exercise*
Sonia Banks, Esq., Professor, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy
- Issues and Impact of U.S. Healthcare Policy*
Hector Flores, M.D., Founding Member and Co-Director White Memorial Medical
Center Family Residency Program
- Competition between Democratic and Autocratic Nations*
Leo Blanken, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Defense Analysis
Naval Postgraduate School
- National Security Policy*
Admiral Michael Mullen, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (2007-2011)
- Policy Approaches to Achieving Equality in American Democracy*
Benjamin Jealous, National President and CEO, NAACP (2008-2013)
The Hon. Ian Oglesby, Mayor, City of Monterey
The Hon. Tyller Williamson, Mayor, City of Monterey
- Order in the House of Representatives: Rules and Procedures*
Jason Smith, Esq., Parliamentarian, The United States House of Representatives
- Social Justice Policy: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*
Mel Mason, Executive Director, The Village Project

Regina Mason, NAACP President, Monterey Bay Chapter

Election Reform—Making Democracy Work

Ryan Coonerty, Third District Supervisor, Santa Cruz County

Duties and Responsibilities of a Congressional Intern

Erin Pruitt, 2023 Congressional Intern, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

Nicholas Stark, 2021 Congressional Intern, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

Jordan Tachibana, 2023 Congressional Intern, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

The Future of Education: The Challenges Facing Education

Niu Gao, Senior Fellow, The Public Policy Institute of California

Immigration Policy Issues and Trends: Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Julia Gelatt, Ph.D., Associate Director, U.S. Immigration Policy Program, Migration Policy Institute

U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, United States Representative, 20th District California

U.S. House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Marty Russo, United States Representative, Illinois, District Three (1975-1993)

Administrative Operations and Managing Decisions in a Congressional Office

Jodie Torkelson, Chief of Staff, Office of United States Representative Rick Nolan Eighth District, Minnesota (2013-2019)

Sylvia M. Panetta, District Director, Office of United States Representative

Leon E. Panetta, Sixteenth District, California (1977-1993)

Growing Income Disparity: U.S. and California Wealth and Income Inequality

Paulette Cha, Research Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California

The Impact of Climate Change

George Somero, Ph.D., David and Lucile Packard Professor of Marine Science Emeritus, Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University

The Impact of Intellectual Technology: The Role and Responsibility of Technology in a Democracy

Dorian Daley, Esq., Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Oracle

Education Policy

The Honorable Janet Napolitano, President, University of California (2013-2020); U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security (2009-2013); Governor of Arizona (2003- 2009)

U.S. Foreign Policy

Michèle Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (2009-2012)

Politics and Policy of Aging and Diversity

Fernando Torres-Gil, Ph.D., U.S. Assistant Secretary of Aging (1993-1997)

Professor of Social Welfare, UCLA

Congressional Internship in Washington D.C.

During the orientation, the Panetta Institute conducts intensive phone interview training sessions with each student to prepare them for their phone interview with a Congressional office within the California delegation in Washington, D.C. The Panetta Institute then arranges interviews with Congressional staff members and secures each student's appointment to intern for a congressional office.

Following the two-week orientation at the Panetta Institute, interns begin their two and one-half months internships for a member of the California congressional delegation on Capitol Hill.

Washington D.C. Seminars

In addition to their work in congressional offices, interns attend weekly seminars on policy issues and different aspects of government. These seminars are scheduled in Washington, D.C. with nationally-renown experts exclusively for the Panetta Institute's interns. In 2024, the Washington D.C. seminar schedule included a special meeting with **Secretary Leon E. Panetta** and a group photograph with him along with presentations by:

Dr. Alan Binder, Princeton Professor and former Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve System

Senator Tom Daschle, former United States Senator from North Dakota

Michèle Flournoy, former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy

Dr. Pat Griffin, former White House Legislative Director

Jeffrey Horwitt, Senior Vice President, Hart Research Associates

Jamil Jaffer, J.D., Founder, National Security Institute, Adjunct Professor of Law and Director of the National Security Law and Policy Program, along with a tour of the United States Supreme Court;

Theresa Cardinal Brown, Director of Immigration and Cross-Border Policy Bipartisan Policy Center

United States Representative Jimmy Panetta, along with attending a House Ways and Means Committee hearing and vote;

House Parliamentarian Jason Smith, along with a tour of the House floor.

Academic Work and Credits

The *Congressional Internship Program* is uniquely designed to have an academic focus together with an experiential learning component. **Students receive academic credit for each of the five component parts of the program for a total of twenty academic units.** Students must research and write a twenty-page comprehensive research policy paper. Students are also responsible for writing and submitting a twenty-page academic reflective journal that is a polished compendium of the student's internship experience. Students are further graded on their internship job performance through congressional staff reviews.