

POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

POLS 195A/295 - Fall, Spring & Summer

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduates:

- Completed 74 units
- GVAR certification before Fall 09, WPJ score of 70+ or at least a C- in ENGL 109
- Minimum GPA of 2.5 (major and overall)
- Completed at least 12 units of upper division coursework in political science, including POLS 180

Graduates:

- Completed POLS 280
- Completed two semesters of coursework

For more information, you may contact the Internship Program

Director, Jaime Jackson:

jaime.jackson@csus.edu



ABOUT THE COURSE

The internship course in government and politics offered through the Political Science Department gives upper division and graduate students the opportunity to gain direct experience working in the state legislative offices, with lobbying groups, in state executive agencies, and in various organizations affecting policy at the local, state, and national levels in Sacramento. This experience has proved to be a valuable "active learning" supplement to academic classes in government and politics. Moreover, it is especially useful as a way of exploring the career possibilities of working in public policy. Each year several students move from internships into full-time employment as a result of these internship experiences. Political Science majors can apply 3 units of the internship course to the 33-unit upper division requirement. Graduate students may apply 3 units of the course to the 30 unit requirement, with approval of the Graduate Coordinator.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Enrollment in the course is concurrent to an internship placement through a host where the Community Engagement Center has a valid agreement and runs parallel to the academic fall, spring and summer terms. The course can be taken for 1-6 units. Generally, the student intern must work 60 hours for each unit of credit; thus a 6-unit internship requires 360 hours of work in the site. We strongly urge students to commit themselves to more time in the internship site rather than less. The more time interns are in the office, the more responsibility they are likely to be given and the more they will learn.

The course is graded Credit/No Credit. Units are earned through a combination of hours worked at the internship site and advising course work assigned by the Internship Program Director, to be completed over the course of the semester. When, in the opinion of the faculty and internship host, the student's work is "passing" but of sub-standard quality, a reduction may be made in the number of credits earned.

