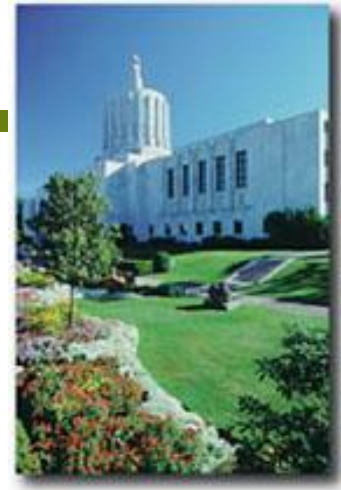


Political Science Internships



The Political Science Internship Program is designed to help students tie together what they have learned through course work with practical political experience. It provides them with an opportunity to earn course credits in a learning situation outside the walls of the traditional classroom.

Students are given considerable flexibility in pursuing an internship position that is appropriate for their particular academic or professional needs. A variety of types of internships are acceptable for credit, be it serving as an assistant to a member of Congress or the state legislature, working in the city or county government, assisting a non-profit organization, or participating actively in an election campaign. The main criteria are that the position must be relevant to political science and it must provide the student with an opportunity to gain experience not otherwise available.

Once hired as interns, students work closely with a faculty member who provides a directed course of study to help the students to understand the work they are doing. The interaction with the professor is a major component of the internship program, providing the academic perspective. Students usually register for **PS404** to receive internship credit.

One of the most popular placements for PSU students has been in the **State Legislative Intern Program**. The Legislative Intern Program was created in 1976 to provide Oregon college students with an opportunity to work within the state legislature, learning leadership responsibilities as well as developing familiarity with the legislative process. Since the Oregon legislature has fewer professional staff members than many states, the student interns can play an important role in a variety of activities related to the legislative process. As a result, this program can be a very valuable and exciting experience. Student credit for interning in the legislature during regular session is available through the **Engaging Democracy Capstone**.

The Political Science Division has also recently introduced an internship program with **Multnomah County Circuit Courts**. Student interns are placed with Circuit Court judges to shadow and observe the operations of the court. This includes access not only to trials and motion hearings, but also to settlement negotiations in chambers and individual conversations with their assigned judge. For information on the Circuit Court internships, contact Professor Chris Shortell at shortell@pdx.edu.

The **Political Science Internship Manual** provides an overview of the program. If you are interested in pursuing an internship, your first step should be to read over the manual. The manual is available at: <http://web.pdx.edu/~hprc/Intern%20guide.pdf>.

Information on upcoming internship opportunities are frequently posted on the Facebook fan page for the **Friends of Political Science at PSU** (<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Portland-OR/Friends-of-Political-Science-at-Portland-State-University/147945468849>).

For additional information on the internship program and help finding internships, contact: Professor Richard Clucas at hprc@pdx.edu