

Department of Politics and Government
Public Service Internship Qualifications and Requirements (Graduate and Undergraduate)

The purpose of the Internship Program is to encourage students to engage in worthwhile, practical experiences outside the University that will enhance and compliment classroom learning. With the help of the internship director, applicants will select an opportunity in the political or public service arena which will enhance students' theoretical and conceptual knowledge of the political setting, the formation of policy, and the contemporary issues facing officials and citizens. In addition to these benefits, internships allow students to earn academic credit while building professional connections, skills, and exploring potential career fields.

To qualify for internship, students must meet the following requirements:

Undergraduates – Professional Practice: Public Service Internship - 398.01 (1-16 credit hours – not more than 12 per semester)

- Major or minor in Politics and Government
- At least 45 hours college coursework completed with a cumulative GPA of 2.5
- 6 of the 45 hours must be Politics and Government courses

Graduates –Professional Practice - 498.11(1-6 credit hours)

- Graduate standing in Politics and Government and director's consent.

Students must perform 45 hours of work for each academic credit earned. Thus, a three credit hour internship requires 135 hours of work during the semester of internship enrollment. Undergraduate Politics and Government majors may acquire a maximum of 16 credit hours that count toward graduation, although only six of those count toward the major and do not fulfill the two 300-level course requirement in the major. Undergraduate minors may also acquire up to 16 credit hours of internship, although only three of those count toward the minor. In addition, undergraduates may not enroll for more than 12 credit hours of internship credit per semester. Graduate students may acquire a maximum of six credit hours that count toward graduation.

Interns are expected to meet the following program requirements:

- Students must have their internship approved and must submit all required forms before their start date.
- Internships must be supervised and supervisors must submit an evaluation twice during the internship period.
- Students are required to keep a daily log of hours worked and activities. This log is to be submitted twice during the internship period.
- Students must also submit a final paper or project.

The director of internships will complete an evaluation of your work and assign a grade accordingly. For more information contact Dr. Riverstone-Newell at lrivers@ilstu.edu or visit the department's webpage.