

GOVT-391
UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP

Department of Government
School of Public Affairs

PURPOSE:

Internships are designed to enable you to relate your academic studies in American Politics to the reality of the political process. Ideally, you will be testing theories against real-world experience. Internships can expose you to career alternatives as well as allow you to develop professional skills and self-confidence. It is important that you choose your internship carefully. Investigate several options. Make sure your assignment will have some learning value for you in terms of your particular interests. Seek organizations in fields where you have special interest, both academic and career. Congressional internships are popular; however, there are organizations for every conceivable interest in Washington.

ELIGIBILITY: The Student must:

- Be at least a second semester sophomore or above
- Have an overall cumulative G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher
- Be a full-time student (to receive academic credit)
- Have fulfilled the appropriate **prerequisite course:**
 - Congressional Internship: GOVT-321 Congress and Legislative Behavior
 - Government Agencies: PUAD-260 Administrative Politics
 - Interest Group Internship: GOVT-210 Political Power and American Public Policy

REQUIREMENTS:

The internship has two components that are encompassed in the single course: GOVT-391 Internship

1. The academic component. In addition to working on-site at your internship, you are also required to attend the seminar that corresponds to your type of internship (Congressional, Executive Branch, or NGO). This is a required seminar which meets both as a group and individually with the intern supervisor. The seminar is job-focused and entails readings, papers, and journals. The academic groups are in accordance with the internship focus. Enroll in the section which most nearly encompasses your internship assignment (see above).
2. The experiential component. All internships are required to span at least 12 weeks during the semester. Please visit the Career Center site for information on the required number of hours per week:
<http://www.american.edu/careercenter/Academic-Credit-Guidelines.cfm>

CREDIT AND EVALUATION:

The internship is a 1-6 credit course, which must be taken for a letter grade (A-F), and can be used toward the Political Science and CLEG majors. See your Academic Counselor for information about how your internship will fit into your graduation plan.