

California State University, Fresno

Department of Political Science

Internship Courses

Internship Course Descriptions:

PLSI 158. Internship in Political Science (2-6; max total 6 units)

Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Maximum credit toward the political science major, 3 units. Supervised work experience in legislative offices and/or political campaigns to provide student with an opportunity to fuse theory and practice. CR/NC grading only. [FS](#)

PLSI 187. Internship in Public Administration (2-6; max total 6 units)

Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Maximum credit toward public administration major, 3 units. Supervised work experience in public agencies to provide the student with an opportunity to fuse theory and practice. CR/NC grading only. [FS](#)

MPA 287. Internship in Public Administration (3 units)

Supervised work experience for a realistic exposure to an organizational-bureaucratic environment for students in the M.P.A. program who lack significant work experience in a public or nonprofit organization. CR/NC grading only. (Formerly GPA 287)

Objective of Internship:

The internships offered by the Department of Political Science and the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program are designed to provide both its MPA and political science major students with opportunities to gain a practical work experience in public and/or nonprofit agencies. This way students are educated in both theory and practice.

Requirements to Achieve Credit:

The course is graded on a Credit/No Credit basis. Undergraduate students may earn up to six units of credit; and graduate students may earn up to three units of credit. In order to earn credit, students must meet the following requirements: (1) Work a *minimum* of 12 hours per week over the course of 15 weeks or 180 hours total; (2) Work supervisor's written assessment of their performance; and (3) 8 to 10 page paper that reflects on their experience compared to theories they learned in the classroom.

Supervision:

Interns will be supervised by both an on-site work supervisor and by a member of the Department of Political Science (undergraduate) or MPA (graduate) faculty. The supervising faculty member will be in contact with the on-site work supervisor during the internship in order to stay up-to-date on the progress and performance of the intern. The intern will also report to the supervising faculty to provide their perspective on the quality of the internship experience.

Procuring the Internship:

Students are allowed to search for their own internship opportunity. The student will need to provide the name of the organization, the name and contact information of an on-site supervisor, and a brief description of duties prior to approval of internship. Students may also allow department or MPA program faculty to select their internship opportunity. The same information about the internship will be recorded (organization, supervisor information, and brief description of duties).

Pay for Internship:

We cannot guarantee an internship with pay. We can only guarantee that students will receive academic credit for the work they do as interns.

