

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](#)

MPA 287. Internship in Public Administration (3 units)

Supervised work experience for a realistic exposure to an organizational-bureaucratic environment for students in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program who lack significant work experience in a public or nonprofit organization. CR/NC grading only.
(Formerly GPA 287)

Objective of Internship:

The internships approved by the Department of Political Science and the Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program are designed to provide both its students with opportunities to apply lessons from the classroom in a workplace setting. They also gain valuable work experience in a political, government, or non-profit organization.

Internship Process:

Either an agency/organization or student proposes an internship opportunity. The internship coordinator vets the internship as a viable academic experience. If the opportunity qualifies as an internship, the internship coordinator will check On Base to verify if there is an existing Experiential Learning Agreement (ELA). If not, the internship coordinator will send one to the agency/organization. Once the ELA is in place, the internship coordinator will then send an electronic Risk Management Assessment (RMA) to the agency/organization. If there are no risk concerns, the internship coordinator proceeds to setup the internship. Student works with the internship coordinator to develop an experiential learning plan (ELP). Student will also sign a liability waiver and provide emergency contact information.

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 10 hours per week over the course of 15 weeks or 150 hours total; (2) Work supervisor's assessment of their performance; and (3) 6 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.

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.

Internship Approval Form

PLSI 158_____

MPA 287_____

To register for the internship, complete this form, provide supervisor contact information to appropriate faculty member, obtain signatures of your work site supervisor and return completed form to either the Department of Political Science (undergraduates) or MPA program director (graduates). Once the internship process is completed, you will be provided with a permission number for this course. You may then register for the course.

Student:

Last Name	First Name	MI
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Local Address

CSU, Fresno I.D. #	E-Mail address	Phone number
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Supervisor:

Last Name	First Name	MI
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Name of Organization	E-Mail Address	Phone Number
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Brief Description of Internship: _____

Signature of Work Site Supervisor