



UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Promoting Civic Engagement, Experiential/Service Learning, and Community Awareness

Political Science Internship Program: POS 4941

- Contact: Political Science Academic Advisor
PolySciAdvise@usf.edu
- Eligibility: Open to all political science majors with a G.P.A. of at least 3.0
- Required: Application must be submitted and approved.
- Availability: Fall and Spring semesters; Summer term is negotiable

The Political Science Internship Program is designed to allow undergraduate majors to engage with the community through experiential and/or service learning in a public policy field that compliments the student's political science curriculum. The Internship Program allows students to participate in public service while developing their knowledge of the public policy process. The benefits associated with experiential and service-based learning are numerous and include: the application of knowledge acquired in the classroom to real world situations, improved critical thinking, leadership, and communication skills, increased awareness and understanding of community issues, and improved civic engagement. An internship is also a wonderful way to gain valuable work experience prior to graduation.

The internship must reflect the student's course of study in political science and must incorporate a public policy dimension. Students are expected to make a significant contribution to the organization sponsoring the internship. It is expected that the student will engage in short and/or long term projects that transcend general office duties such as filing, answering the phone, copying, and running errands. The student must be in a position to offer evidence of the projects undertaken as part of the internship at the completion of the semester. All internships require advance approval by the Internship Advisor.

Internship opportunities are varied and include: various federal, state, and local elected officials, the Office of the Attorney General (Tampa), the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, the Supervisor of Elections Office, and other public offices. The internship must reflect the student's course of study in political science and must incorporate a public policy dimension. Internships with campaign organizations are approved on a case-by-case basis. Identifying and securing an appropriate internship is largely the responsibility of the student.

Students pursuing an approved internship are eligible for three (3) POS credits for 15 hours of work per week for the duration of the semester. Students selected for an internship with the Office of the Attorney General are required to work 25 hours per week and will receive six (6) POS credits. The deadlines for applying for an internship with the Attorney General's office are August 16 for the fall semester and December 16 for the spring semester, and April 16 for the summer term—a separate application is required.

Sample Political Science Internship Program Opportunities:

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the U.S. Attorney

Office of the Attorney General, Florida Regional Office

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Office of the State Attorney

Office of the Public Defender

Supervisor of Elections Office(s)

Office of the Governor, Tampa Regional Office

Office of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (D), Tampa District Office

Office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R), Tampa District Office

Office of U.S. Representative Gus Bilirakis (R) 9th District Office

Office of U.S. Representative C.W. Bill Young (R) 10th District Office

Office of U.S. Representative Kathy Castor (D), 11th District Office

Office of U.S. Representative Dennis Ross (R), 12th District Office

Other elected officials are also eligible, such as members of the Florida state legislature, Office of the Mayor, County Commissioners, and City Commissioners.

Internships with a campaign organization or political consulting group are approved on a case-by-case basis.