



The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

## **Congressional Internship Program Program and Position Description**

### **Program Summary:**

The Panetta Institute *Congressional Internship Program* has been recognized as one of the best in the country. The Panetta Institute's twenty-third annual *Congressional Internship Program* will be held from Sunday, August 8 through Friday, December 4, 2021.

This semester long program begins with a rigorous two-week academic orientation at the Panetta Institute from Sunday, August 8, 2021 through Friday, August 20, 2021. The focus of this training and orientation is to prepare students for their internship work in Washington, D.C. by giving them an in-depth background to understand the most important policy challenges facing our nation. The Panetta Institute invites experts at the top levels within their fields to expand students' understanding of politics and policy.

Following the orientation, on Saturday, August 21, 2021, students will travel to Washington, D.C. for their eleven-week internships with members of the U.S. House of Representatives, both Republican and Democrat, from the California delegation where they will serve through Friday, November 5, 2021. While in Washington, D.C., students are mentored and closely supervised by Panetta Institute faculty in California as well as Panetta Institute staff in Washington, D.C. Another unique feature of the *Congressional Internship Program* includes weekly seminars on policy issues that the interns attend while working on Capitol Hill with nationally renowned leaders who currently practice in their specialized field. Interns will also be required to submit weekly reports summarizing their internship work as well as summaries of the lessons presented through the speaker seminars.

Upon return to California on Saturday, November 6, 2021, interns begin to work on the academic requirements of the program: a twenty-page policy paper with evidence of research and analysis and a twenty-page reflective journal, a polished compendium of the student's intern experience. The academic program ends on Friday, December 4, 2021 with the submission of both assignments directly to the Panetta Institute for grading by the Institute's professors. The internship ends on Friday, December 17, 2021 with the submission of final grades.

Upon completion of all requirements for this course, interns will earn a letter grade commensurate with their performance for twenty (20) full-time academic units that will be posted to their university transcripts. All program costs are covered, including housing, ground transportation, travel to and from Washington, D.C. and some reimbursement for living expenses. Any academic major may apply; the program is open to qualified students regardless of income.

### **Course Components:**

- Participate in a two-week training session at the Panetta Institute, located at the CSU Monterey Bay campus on the Monterey Peninsula;
- Work full-time for eleven weeks in the assigned a Washington, D.C. congressional office for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the California delegation;
- Attend special seminars held exclusively for Panetta Institute interns while in Washington, D.C., and submit reports on all classes and seminars;

- Submit timely weekly reports and other assignments;
- Attend weekly meetings with Panetta Institute staff while in Washington, D.C.;
- Submit an experiential twenty-page journal and a twenty-page research paper consistent with the syllabus provided by the Institute; and
- Earn letter grades commensurate with their performance for twenty (20) full-time academic credits upon successful completion of the internship that must be accepted by the student's university as an integral component of the student's academic transcript.

**Position Functions and Tasks:**

Provide support to congressional office staff that includes, but is not limited to:

- Answer phones
  - Take messages
  - Transfer calls
  - Conferences
- Enter data
- Draft correspondence or other materials
- Meet and greet constituents
- Provide tours of Capitol Building
- Compile newspaper clippings
- Attend hearings and briefings, take notes and provide summaries/reports
- Conduct issue/legislative research
- Perform other work that involves the practical application of what is learned in the classroom

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**Position Qualifications:**

*Education*

- Matriculating student in upper-division undergraduate status (matriculating juniors or seniors during the time of the internship - and has not applied for graduation)
- High academic standing at all colleges/universities attended (includes lower division also)
- *Congressional Internship Program* academic units must be applied to the student's transcript

*Experience*

- Outstanding student leader, who is not a former Panetta Institute *Congressional Internship Program* participant
- Demonstrated commitment to community and public service

*Skills*

- Advanced written and verbal communication skills (especially clarity of speech)
- General computer proficiency, word processing and spreadsheet knowledge
- Ability to follow instructions carefully
- Flexibility to adjust with poise to changing deadlines and priorities
- Ability to provide information to the public and others as directed by supervisors
- Strong organizational skills
- Ability to multi-task and prioritize assignments
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to be a good team member with an attitude of doing what it takes to get the job done and doing so with a pleasant, cooperative, and professional demeanor

### *Other qualities*

- Exemplary conduct at the home campus university and in the community; Positive attitude with a willingness to work (hard) on any project assigned by the congressional office;
- Willingness to accept work involving the practical application of what is learned in the classroom;
- Exercises maturity and sound judgment;
- Willing to abide by the Panetta Institute's Code of Conduct and Confidentiality Agreement;
- Full-time commitment to the Panetta Institute's *Congressional Internship Program*; no extra- curricular or outside courses allowed including, but not limited to, scheduling of LSAT, GRE, MCAT, GMAT, etc.;
- Willingness to accept roommate assignments and share living quarters with other students while residing at CSU Monterey Bay and in Washington, D.C.
- U.S. citizen;
- State of **California** resident;
- All students must have proof of health insurance that is compliant with the Affordable Care Act and that covers the students while residing and working in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

### **Important Deadline Dates**

- Friday, March 26, 2021 - Campus deadline for nominations
- Monday, April 12, 2021 - Student interviews begin by Panetta Institute
- Friday, April 23, 2021 - Panetta Institute announces intern appointments
- Friday, June 25, 2021 - Panetta Institute mails intern packets
- Friday, July 23, 2021 - Deadline for interns to submit information forms to the Panetta Institute
- Sunday, August 8, 2021 - Interns arrive at the Panetta Institute and register
- Monday, August 9, 2021 - Classes begin at the Panetta Institute
- Saturday, August 21, 2021 - Interns depart for Washington, D.C.
- Monday, August 23, 2021 - Interns' first day of internship in assigned Congressional offices
- Friday, November 5, 2021 - Interns' last day of internship in assigned Congressional offices
- Saturday, November 6, 2021 - Interns return to California
- Monday, November 8, 2021 - Interns begin work on the policy paper and reflective journal assignments
- Monday, December 6, 2021 - Interns email policy paper and reflective journal to the Panetta Institute at [info@panettainstitute.org](mailto:info@panettainstitute.org) by close of business 5:30 p.m.
- Friday, December 17, 2021 - Grades for twenty internship units submitted to CSUMB