

# The Georgia Legislative Intern Program

## Should you be a Legislative Intern? *Yes, if . . .*

- \$ *you are a Georgia college or university student* who wants to be a part of a dynamic state government even before you graduate.
- \$ *you are curious to see how state government really works*—how it makes things happen here in Georgia.
- \$ *you want to help shape Georgia's future*—in politics, business, law, media, education, medicine, or farming. Here is your chance to meet and work with Georgia's leaders.
- \$ *you would like to enhance your education* by obtaining the experience and contacts for future job opportunities.

## Are there other requirements? *Yes.*

- \$ You must be a legal Georgia resident and a U.S. citizen.
- \$ You must be a junior or senior at the time you serve your internship.
- \$ Selection is based on academic standing and potential for leadership in politics and government as indicated by grades, work experiences, extracurricular activities, interests, and maturity. You will be asked to furnish transcripts, as well as references from people who have worked with you.
- \$ Interns must be undergraduates enrolled in a Georgia college or university.
- \$ A prerequisite for participation in the Georgia Legislative Intern Program is agreement by the student's school that academic credit will be granted for the internship. Each school decides the amount of credit, the department in which it is granted, and the requirements for earning credit.

## Credit under the semester system:

You need to work with your academic adviser to determine your academic needs. GSU has a comprehensive evening program to supplement any schedule. It is possible either to cross-register at Georgia State University or to register as a transient student.

## For more information contact:

The Political Science Department or Internship Coordinator at your college or university.

Additional information may be obtained from the Department of Political Science, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA 30303. Contact:

**Professor Richard Engstrom**, State Director, Georgia Legislative Intern Program

Telephone: 404-413-6174; email: [engstrom@gsu.edu](mailto:engstrom@gsu.edu)

**Professor Bill Thomas**, State Director, Georgia Legislative Intern Program

Telephone: 404-413-6181; email: [wthomas@gsu.edu](mailto:wthomas@gsu.edu)

**What does an Intern do?**

- § This Internship is a full-time responsibility; interns work 8:00-5:00 Monday through Friday, with the exception of interns who attend the Friday afternoon session of Studies in American Politics.
- § Most interns are assigned to a standing committee in either the House or Senate; a few may be assigned to legislative staff offices.
- § Responsibilities include researching bills or issues before the General Assembly, working with a legislative committee, monitoring the progress of legislation, and other duties as assigned by the committee.
- § Above all, interns have the valuable opportunity to witness the lawmaking process first-hand.

**How many interns are chosen?**

Approximately 30 students are selected each year from Georgia's public and private colleges and universities.

**What about housing in Atlanta?**

Interns are responsible for finding housing in the Atlanta area. Although housing is on your own, it may be available through Georgia Tech or Georgia State dormitories. Check with Professor Thomas or Professor Engstrom at Georgia State University.

**Stipend:**

The General Assembly determines the amount of the expense stipend. The stipend will be approximately \$300 per week.

**Dates of service:**

The internship period corresponds to the annual session of the General Assembly. The session begins the second Monday in January and, with the usual budget recesses, concludes in March. During the week prior to the convening of the legislature, an orientation for interns is held at the Capitol.

**Quotes From Former Interns:**

*The internship gave me an insight into the practical realities of lawmaking. It was a very enlightening experience to realize how much the legislators must compromise. I would encourage even business majors to apply for an internship.*

*[The Internship] opened my eyes to see what's actually going on in the state legislature. I worked in the Public Information office writing press releases, doing some research and working on budgets. I would encourage all kinds of majors to apply.*

*Politics might be something I want to do. It was exciting. For future references, it's going to help. It's an eye-catcher on the resume. It was also just fun to live a completely different lifestyle for three months in a big city.*