Political Internship Opportunities

This list comprises the sites that the department knows will take applications for internships. *The deadline for the state legislature, the Judicial Branch is 11/1/17.* Some of these sites have formal applications that specify faculty recommendations and others require cover letters and resumes. It is possible, however, to set up internships at other sites. Doing so requires a different process of personal contact both on your part and the department. Please see Dr. Vitale immediately if you have an interest in an internship other than one on this list. Contact information for Dr. Vitale is below.

**Connecticut General Assembly**
Students working in the Connecticut general assembly are assigned as individual staff members to a state legislator or legislators. Responsibilities typically include constituent service, issue research, bill tracking, committee hearings and public hearings. There is a formal application that is due on November 1, so please start the process of the website: [https://www.cga.ct.gov/isc/internship.asp](https://www.cga.ct.gov/isc/internship.asp) and let Dr. Vitale know of your intention to apply.

**Congressional Offices**
Every member of Congress (House and Senate) in Connecticut will take interns in their state/district office. All members have online application processes on their websites. Please see Dr. Vitale directly regarding members of Congress if you cannot find the application online.

**Connecticut Commission on Equity and Opportunity**
This commission is the result of the merging of three independent commissions (African American Affairs, Asian Pacific American Affairs and Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs). Interns in this office would be working on policy development and research on model policy related to African Americans, Asian and Pacific Americans and Puerto Rican’s in the state. Included in responsibilities might also be studies of the status of impacted populations and the impact of existing policies on those populations. Interested students should send a message to the Commission at: ctceo@cga.ct.gov.

**Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities**
The internship is designed for students with a specific interest in employment, housing, labor and other forms of discrimination like school bullying or racial profiling, or students more generally wanting to gain an exposure to the practice of law or to public service. This internship is ideal for someone who may want to consider becoming an attorney, as students work in the agency’s Legal Division or Office of Public Hearings in Hartford. For more information: [http://www.ct.gov/chro/cwp/view.asp?a=4235&q=499612&chroNav=|54741|](http://www.ct.gov/chro/cwp/view.asp?a=4235&q=499612&chroNav=|54741|).

**Connecticut Commission on Women, Children and Seniors**
Interns in this office would be working on policy development and research on model policy related to women, children and seniors in CT. Included in responsibilities might also be studies of the status of impacted populations and the impact of existing policies on those populations. Interested students will find the application process at: [https://ctcwcs.com/internships/](https://ctcwcs.com/internships/).

**Connecticut Democratic and Republican Parties**
Both state party organizations offer internship opportunities. For more information, go to their websites:
Connecticut Democratic Party: [https://ctdemocrats.org/intern/](https://ctdemocrats.org/intern/),

**CT Department of Education**
The CT department of Education has numerous internship opportunities for college interns. While some are for students seeking to be teachers, others are more about policy and advocacy. Further information about Education Department Internships can be found at: [http://www.sde.ct.gov/SDE/Lib/SDE/Word_Docs/JOBS/INDEX_COLLEGIATE_INTERNSHIPS.htm](http://www.sde.ct.gov/SDE/Lib/SDE/Word_Docs/JOBS/INDEX_COLLEGIATE_INTERNSHIPS.htm).

**Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection**
Interns with the Connecticut department of environmental protection work in a variety of ways to help complete the mission of the agency—to enforce all state environmental protection law. Students are typically involved in a variety of regulatory projects, including policy development. For more information on internships and application details, go to their website at: [http://www.ct.gov/DEEP/View.cwp?w=2688&q=322346](http://www.ct.gov/DEEP/View.cwp?w=2688&q=322346).

**Connecticut Department of Public Health**
The Department of Public Health, charged with regulating all aspects of health from aspects of the environment, to workplaces to disease outbreaks has internships available in their government relations office. Students generally work on assisting the office in developing and implementing their legislative agenda. If you are a double major or have a minor with Health
Sciences, DPH might be the place for you. The application can be found online at http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3131&Q=396394.

Connecticut Judicial Branch
The Judicial Branch of the State of Connecticut has internships either in the court or probation system. Students particularly interested in the criminal justice system should consider this one. You can find the CT Judicial Branch internship form at their website: https://www.jud.ct.gov/elp/undergrad.htm.

Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM)
OPM functions as the Governor’s staff agency and plays a central role in state government, providing the information and analysis used to formulate public policy for the State. This agency works on: preparing the Governor’s budget proposal and implementing the execution of the budget as adopted by the General Assembly; analyzing and assessing the financial, programmatic, and legislative proposals of State agencies, the General Assembly, and the federal government; coordinating/leading interagency problem-solving efforts. Applications and information about OPM internships can be found at: http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=3007&q=386390&opmNav=|

Connecticut Secretary of State
The secretary of state’s office has a variety of internship opportunities available including assisting in the regulation of elections. For of specific opportunities and the application process, visit the Secretary of State’s Internship website at: http://www.ct.gov/sots/cwp/view.asp?a=3178&q=392154.

ECSU Institute for Sustainable Energy,
Eastern’s Institute for Sustainable Energy needs interns to assist them with both their policy/research agenda as well as their legislative agenda. Some internship possibilities are paid, but those would not be eligible for credit. Whether you are interested in paid or unpaid internships through the ISE, please contact Lynn Stoddard directly at 465-0253 or stoddardl@easterct.edu.

Sullivan & LeShane
Sullivan and LeShane is a government and public relations firms that provides legislative, administrative, and municipal lobbying to various corporations in CT. Students will assist with bill tracking, legislative monitoring, public hearing sign ups, data collection and research. This internship includes a travel stipend. Interested students should request a copy of the full position description from Dr. Vitale. Ultimately, you will need to email a cover letter, resume and contact information to Amy Hrenko at ahlreno@ctlobby.com.

Rome Smith & Lutz
Rome Smith & Lutz is a government relation firm that provides lobbying services in the state capital. If you think you are interested in lobbying, Rome, Smith & Lutz is a well-connected organization with a range of clients from the for profit to the not-for profit world. For more information, contact Joseph Riter at jriter@romesmithlutz.com.

The CT Group
The Connecticut Group, LLC, a Farmington, Connecticut based government affairs firm is looking for a sessional intern to work with us from January through June of 2018. The intern will spend roughly 85% of their time at the State Capitol complex in Hartford, Connecticut, and the other 15% at our office or at events throughout the state. This site has paid (not-for-credit) and unpaid (for credit) experiences available. If you are interested in this experience, please contact Professor Vitale for the handout with the complete internship description and application guidelines. Ultimately, a cover letter, resume and one letter of recommendation will need to be sent to: jwoulfe@connecticutgroup.net.

The Vinci Group
This organization manages or works with Democratic campaigns at the local and state/congressional levels including Dan Drew’s Gubernatorial Campaign. If you are interested in working on Democratic Party campaigns, please send a cover letter/resume to Mike Farina at mike@thevincigroup.com.

State/Local/Law Political Science Internship Contact Information
Dr. Vitale
Webb 325
vitalep@easterct.edu
860/465-5248