



The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

Congressional Internship Program Description

The Panetta Institute extends its mission of service through its *Congressional Internship Program*. This program is open to undergraduate students in their junior or senior year with an interest in public service within any academic discipline from the twenty-three California State Universities and three private colleges and universities. This internship provides the opportunity to work and live within the rich cultural, historical and political heritage of our nation's capital. As interns with Congress, students gain firsthand exposure to the American political process while attaining professional learning experience that offers meaningful, practical work experience and provides an opportunity for career exploration and development.

The sponsor and donors of the Panetta Institute make it possible to offer this opportunity without regard to a student's financial background. Since the Panetta Institute pays all expenses, any qualified student can participate regardless of family income. Student selection is based on exemplary scholastic record, potential for a public service career and interest in politics.

Two-Week Orientation

A fundamental part of the *Congressional Internship Program* academic curriculum is the two-week orientation designed to supplement the intern's experience through attending and participating in the class sessions, and then completing reflective, substantive session reviews. Experts in their respective fields present seminars during this orientation. During the first week of the orientation, seminars concentrate on: United States Congress, the legislative process of regular order, House of Representatives parliamentary rules and procedures, budget and appropriations process, congressional committees and structure, elections, congressional-presidential relations, federal and state relations, American jurisprudence as lead by the U.S. Supreme Court and the role of a free press in a democracy.

Guest Speakers

The 2021 two-week orientation included a series of seminars presented by Secretary Leon E. Panetta on Defense Policy, Cyber-Security, National Security, Congressional Structure and Committees and Foreign Policy. In addition to Secretary Panetta's seminars a total of forty experts consisting of distinguished representatives from Congress, government agencies, military, press, academia and public policy institutes addressed the interns with their unique insights and expertise during the course of forty-nine seminars.

The Founders and the Creation of the American Republic

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, Chairman of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy

Congressional Leadership, Committees and Policymaking

The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, Chairman of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy

California's Natural Resources: Water, Energy and Fire

The Hon. John Laird, California State Senator, District 17, California Secretary of Natural Resources Agency (2011-2019)

Congress and Cybersecurity Issues: The Links Between Cybersecurity and National Security

John Arquilla, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Department of Defense Analysis, Naval Postgraduate School

Economic and Trade Policies of the United States

Joe Minarik, Ph.D., Chief Economist, Office of Management and Budget (1993-2001)

Consensus Building: From the Legislative Perspective

Jim Cunneen, California State Assembly, District 24, (1994-2000)
Fred Keeley, California State Assembly, District 27, (1996-2002)

Consensus Building Exercise

Frank Hespe, Esq., Advocate and Fiduciary
Sonia Banks, Esq., Professor, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

Issues and Impact of U.S. Healthcare Policy

Pete Delgado, President and CEO, Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System
Steven Packer, M.D., President/CEO, Montage Health and Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula

Imperial Competition between Democratic and Autocratic Nations

Leo Blanken, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Defense Analysis
Naval Postgraduate School

Education Policy: The Direction of Higher Education

Lisa Kloppenberg, Esq., Acting President, Santa Clara University

Policy Approaches to Achieving Equality in American Democracy

Benjamin Jealous, National President and CEO, NAACP (2008-2013)

Order in the House of Representatives: Rules and Procedures

Jason Smith, Esq., Parliamentarian, The United States House of Representatives

Social Justice Policy: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Mel Mason, Executive Director, The Village Project
Regina Mason, NAACP President, Monterey Bay Chapter

Election Reform—Making Democracy Work

Ryan Coonerty, Third District Supervisor, Santa Cruz County

Duties and Responsibilities of a Congressional Intern

Symphoni Barbee, 2019, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy
Congressional Intern
Belinda Magallon, 2019, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy
Congressional Intern
Dubrea Sanders, 2019, The Panetta Institute for Public Policy
Congressional Intern

with nationally-renown experts exclusively for the Panetta Institute's interns. In 2021, the Washington, D.C. seminar offerings were limited to due speaker concerns regarding COVID-19. A more typical seminar schedule is that of 2019. In 2019, the Washington D.C. seminar schedule included a special meeting with **Secretary Leon E. Panetta** and a group photograph with him along with presentations by:

Dr. Alan Binder, Princeton Professor and former Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve System;
United States Representative Ken Calvert, along with attending a House Appropriations Committee hearing;

Senator Tom Daschle, former United States Senator from North Dakota;

Michèle Flournoy, former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy;

Dr. Pat Griffin, former White House Legislative Director;

Jeffrey Horwitt, Senior Vice President, Hart Research Associates;

Jamil Jaffer, J.D., Founder, National Security Institute, Adjunct Professor of Law and Director of the National Security Law and Policy Program, along with a tour of the United States Supreme Court;

Doris Meissner, former Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service;

United States Representative Jimmy Panetta, along with attending a House Ways and Means Committee hearing and vote;

House Parliamentarian Thomas Wickham, along with a tour of the House floor.

Academic Work and Credits

The *Congressional Internship Program* is uniquely designed to have an academic focus together with an experiential learning component. **Students receive academic credit for each of the five component parts of the program for a total of twenty academic units.** Students must research and write a twenty-page comprehensive research policy paper. Students are also responsible for writing and submitting a twenty-page academic reflective journal that is a polished compendium of the student's internship experience. Students are further graded on their internship job performance through congressional staff reviews.