



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.

Specific topics presented in the first week during the 2020 *Congressional Internship Program* included:

- The Founding and Creation of the American Republic;
- The Legislative Process: Congressional Leadership, Committees and Policymaking;
- Historical Factors Underlying Current Congressional Gridlock and Partisanship;
- House of Representatives Parliamentary Rules and Procedures;
- Congressional Operations: Power to Tax and Spend;
- Breaking Gridlock in Congress;
- The Global Issue of Climate Change;
- The Links between Cybersecurity and National Security;
- Consensus Building Skills;
- The Economic Effects of Trade Policies;
- California's Natural Resources;
- The Differences in Legislative Leadership at the Federal, State and Local Level;
- Equal Justice Under the Law;

- Economic Challenges and the Budget Crisis;
- Growing Income Disparity;
- Re-teaching American History: Beginning Again;
- The Challenges Facing California's Agriculture and Farmworkers.

During the second week of orientation, the following national policy issues were discussed.

- U.S. Election Integrity and Interference in U.S. 2020 Presidential Elections;
- United States Foreign and Defense Policies;
- The Impact of the Press on Politics;
- Energy Challenges on the Global Level;
- National Security Strategies;
- The Iranian Nuclear Accord as a Case Study;
- Equality, Equity and Inclusion at the Corporate Level;
- Politics of Diversity and Social Welfare Policy;
- U.S. Healthcare Policy in the Aftermath of COVID19;
- Duties and Responsibilities within a Congressional Office;
- History of Presidential-Congressional Relations;
- Law Enforcement's Role in Homeland Security;
- The Supreme Court of the United States: Recent Decisions and Trends;
- The Direction of Education and Current U.S. Education Policy;
- Delivering Blind Justice under the Law;
- Immigration Trends and Issues;
- Balancing the California Budget: An Exercise;
- California's Law Enforcement Role and the Attorney General's Office.

Guest Speakers

The 2020 two-week orientation began with 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-seven seminars.

The Hon. Luis Alejo, Supervisor, District 1, Monterey County Board of Supervisors and California State Assembly, Districts 28 and 30 (2010-2016);

Tonya Antle, Member, Panetta Institute Board of Directors;

John Arquilla, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of Department of Defense Analysis, Naval Postgraduate School;

Dan Balz, Chief Correspondent for *The Washington Post*;

Jeremy Bash, J.D., Chief of Staff to the Secretary of Defense (2011-2013) and Chief of Staff to the Director of the CIA (2009-2011);

The Hon. Xavier Becerra, Attorney General, State of California;

Douglas Brinkley, Ph.D., Professor of History, Rice University and CNN Presidential Historian;

Theresa Cardinal Brown, Director of Immigration and Cross-Border Policy, Bipartisan Policy Center;

The Hon. Ming Chin, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of California;

Robert Fairfax, Jr., J.D., Patricia Roberts Harris Research Professor of Law, founding Director, Criminal Law and Policy Initiative, the George Washington university Law School; former federal prosecutor, U.S. Department of Justice;

The Hon. Sam Farr, U.S. House of Representatives, California, 17th District (1993-2013 and 20th District (2013-2018));

Hector Flores, M.D., Founding Member and Co-Director of the White Memorial Medical Center Family Residency Program and Member of the Blue Shield of California Board of Directors;

Eddie Glaude, Jr., Ph.D., James S. McDonnell distinguished University Professor of African American Studies, Princeton University; Chair of the Center for African American Studies and Chair of the Department of African American Studies, Princeton University;

Ilan Goldenberg, Senior Fellow and Director of the Middle East Security Program Center for a New American Security; Chief of Staff, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of State;

Jamil Jaffer, J.D., Founder, National Security Institute, Adjunct Professor of Law and Director of the National Security Law and Policy Program;

The Hon. Jeh Charles Johnson, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security (2013-2017), General Counsel, U.S. Department of Defense (2009-2012);

Lisa Kloppenberg, J.D., Provost, Santa Clara University;

Markos Kounalakis, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University;

The Hon. John Laird, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency;

Stephanie Leonard, Communications Project Manager, Next 10;

Maya MacGuineas, President, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget;

Admiral William McRaven, USN (Ret.), Commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command (2011-2014);

Carla Marinucci, Senior Writer for POLITICO's *California Playbook*;

Joe Minarik, Ph.D., Chief Economist, Office of Management and Budget (1993-2001) and Senior Vice President and Director of Research Committee for Economic Development;

Carmen Ponce, J.D., Vice President and General Counsel of Labor, Tanimura and Antle;

The Hon. Robert Reich, Ph.D., Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy at U.C. Berkeley; U.S. Secretary of Labor (1993-1997);

The Hon. Marty Russo, United States Representative (D), 3rd District, Illinois (1975-1993);

Matthew Spence, Ph.D., J.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Middle East Policy (2012-2015);

Jodie Torkelson, Chief of Staff to United States Representative Rick Nolan, 8th District, Minnesota;

Fernando Torres-Gil, Ph.D., United States Assistant Secretary on Aging United States Department of Health and Human Services (1993-1997) and Professor of Social Welfare and Public Policy University of California, Los Angeles;

The Hon. Rafael Vazquez, Judge, Monterey County Superior Court;

Thomas Wickham, J.D., Parliamentarian, United States House of Representatives;

Chris Womack, Executive Vice President and President, External Affairs, Southern Company.

Congressional Internship in Washington D.C.

During the orientation, the Panetta Institute conducts intensive phone interview training sessions with each student to prepare them for their phone interview with a Congressional office within the California delegation in Washington, D.C. The Panetta Institute then arranges interviews with Congressional staff members and secures each student's appointment to intern for a congressional office.

Following the two-week orientation at the Panetta Institute, interns begin their two and one-half months internships for a member of the California congressional delegation on Capitol Hill.

Washington D.C. Seminars

In addition to their work in congressional offices, interns attend weekly seminars on policy issues and different aspects of government. These seminars are scheduled in Washington, D.C. with nationally-renown experts exclusively for the Panetta Institute's interns. The 2019 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.