



GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Legislative Internship Program

Who we are

The Office of Governmental Relations is the liaison between all levels of government and Florida State University. Special emphasis is placed on monitoring the Florida legislative process, from which the University receives most of its funding. The Governmental Relations staff is committed to informing the University community of key legislative issues of interest and impact. In addition to our advocacy efforts, with the support of President McCullough, in 2022 our office established the FSU Legislative Internship Program to provide our students with the opportunity to engage with the Florida political process.

About the Program

Florida State University is proud to announce that the application for the 2027 FSU Legislative Internship Program is now open! This internship program, which begins during legislative committee weeks (January & February 2027) and continues into the 60-day Legislative Session (March 2 – April 30, 2027), will provide undergraduate students, who have completed at least one full academic year at FSU, and graduate students at Florida State University the opportunity to gain valuable experience in Florida's legislative process here in Tallahassee, Florida.

Participating students will learn all about how policy, the state's economy and politics are deeply intertwined in Florida's legislative process. Duties may include conducting research, writing bill summaries, attending committee hearings; and communicating with legislators, state agency liaisons, lobbyists, constituents, and members of the general public. While we encourage the offices opting into our program to give interns work related to the legislative process on policy and budget, students should expect that administrative duties, as well as constituent services, will be part of their experience as these are vital to the process. Actual job duties will differ from office to office.

Placements may include internships in the State Senate, The House of Representatives, or the Executive Office of the Governor. Students will receive a scholarship of \$3,300 for participation in the program, which includes \$300 to offset parking and transportation costs. Participants will receive the scholarship via two deposits into their FSU student business services account, 50 percent will be deposited prior to the start of their internship in January, and 50 percent will be deposited in the first week of May with successful completion of the internship and program requirements. To receive this scholarship, students must continue to be enrolled at least part time, which is defined as being enrolled in at least six-credit hours, during the spring semester. The requirement for part-time enrollment may be met through academic credit earned through this internship, as approved by your academic advisor. Students interested in applying for this internship should reach out to their academic advisors **now** to see how this internship might fit into their academic map and to sketch out a tentative spring schedule.

In addition to the internship itself, this program offers a range of supplementary learning opportunities in which participants are mandated to engage in. These structured sessions serve to enhance participants' comprehension of the Florida legislative process while fostering both personal and professional development. As part of this internship program, participating students will be required to **attend in-person Friday sessions from 9:30-11:00am** to help students better contextualize their day-to-day internship work within the broader framework of state government. In addition to strengthening analytical understanding of legislative procedures, the weekly meeting is intended to foster collaboration among interns through shared discussions, speaker engagement, building a strong cohort experience that enhances both professional networking and peer-to-peer learning throughout legislative session.

Strong candidates are expected to be:

- Punctual
- Responsible
- Self-directed
- Organized
- Respectful



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Applying for the Internship

Florida State University students currently enrolled are eligible to apply provided they have a minimum 3.0 FSU Cumulative GPA and have **completed at least one academic year at FSU**. Students with a desire to learn about public policy and politics should apply.

Time Commitment

Below is the Internship Schedule:

1. Six Committee Weeks- January & February 2027 *(the exact schedule of committee weeks will be announced closer to the end of 2026)*
2. Legislative Session- March 2 - April 30, 2027

During committee weeks and the 60-day Legislative Session, students will have the opportunity to be at the Capitol for up to 40 hours per week to fully absorb the legislative process. **Prior to the start of the internship, our staff will hold a mandatory all day, in-person orientation event on Friday, January 8, 2027, and Friday January 15, 2027, to prepare students on what they can expect, and what will be expected of them during their legislative internship. Students participating in the program must be at all trainings, unless provided an excused absence.**

As part of this internship program, participating students will be required to **attend in-person Friday sessions from 9:30-11:00am** to help students better contextualize their day-to-day internship work within the broader framework of state government. Students are expected to build their spring academic schedule with these Friday sessions in mind.

We encourage applicants to initiate conversations with their academic advisors to determine how this program could be eligible for full or partial academic credit. **Applicants who are selected to be interviewed will be asked by the selection committee to explain how this internship will fit into their academic plan and whether they will be pursuing academic credit for participating in this program, as discussed with their academic advisor.** Specifically, it is important that participation in this internship program does not delay a student's four-year graduation plan.

Applications must be completed online by Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 11:59pm Eastern time. Applications will not be considered if incomplete or submitted after the deadline. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all documents have been submitted before the deadline. Any applicants who are invited to interview and need access to free professional attire suitable for the workplace may make an appointment with the [ProfessioNole Clothing Closet](#), located at the Career Center on the third floor of the Dunlap Success Center.

Application Process

After thorough review of completed submitted applications, the Governmental Relations Office will extend invitations to approximately 40 students for in-person interviews at the Wescott Building on campus. Applications with missing elements will not be considered.

Following these interviews, approximately 20 participants will be selected based on the merit of their application and interview performance.

Final decisions will be conveyed during the week of October 19, 2026, allowing students sufficient time to consult with their academic advisors to ensure optimal availability during the spring semester.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Is this a paid internship?

While this internship is not paid, the program provides each participant with a \$3,300 scholarship, which includes \$300 to offset parking and transportation costs. The scholarship will be deposited into participant's FSU Student Business Services account via two deposits, 50 percent will be deposited in January prior to the start of their internship, and 50 percent will be deposited in the first week of May with successful completion of the internship and program requirements.

What if my class schedule does not allow me to be at the Capitol for 40 hours a week?

While we encourage all participants to work with their academic advisor on their spring schedule to maximize their time at the Capitol, school comes first. Students who cannot receive full time credit for their legislative internship through their academic program should talk to their academic advisor to see if online or evening classes might be a good option. At a minimum, students should strive to be at the Capitol for at least 20-30 hours per week to make the most of their learning experience.

What if I can't attend the required Friday sessions?

Attending the Friday session is a required component of the internship program. Students should work with their academic advisors in advance to ensure this time slot fits within their academic plan.

What duties should I expect as a legislative intern?

Students participating in the program will have an array of duties depending on the needs of the participating office. While we encourage the offices opting into our program to give interns work related to the legislative process on policy and budget, students should expect that administrative duties, as well as constituent services, will be part of their experience as these are vital to the process.

Will I be able to choose where I am placed for my internship?

Our office (Governmental Relations) will determine internship placements. As an intern, it is important to remember that the purpose of the internship is to learn the legislative process, and that can be accomplished in any of the offices taking part in our program. While neither interns nor offices select their placement, our office will consider policy interests, student skills, and an office's needs when considering placements.

What if I have zero experience in an office setting, am I still eligible to participate in this legislative internship?

Absolutely! We expect that for many participants this will be the first time in a professional, office setting. This is why we have built a training curriculum to help prepare students for this internship.

What if I am not chosen to participate in the legislative internship?

This is a competitive program, and although we would love to place all applicants, our limit is based on how many offices opt-in to participate. We encourage students to explore the [NoleNetwork Portal](#) to see what other internships they can apply for to have multiple chances of securing a spring internship.

Is transportation provided for interns?

While the internship program will not provide a shuttle from campus, the scholarship can be used to offset transportation costs associated with commuting to the Capitol if the student does not have an outstanding balance with the university. Program participants who would like to drive to the Capitol can use \$300 from their scholarship to purchase a Kleman Plaza Parking Pass for the duration of the internship program. Kleman Plaza is located across the street from the Capitol.



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Is there a dress code for this internship program?

Yes! Interns are expected to dress in business attire. We will go more into depth on this topic during our training series. Students who are invited to participate in the internship program who may need access to free professional attire suitable for the workplace may make an appointment with the [ProfessioNole Clothing Closet](#), located the Career Center on the third floor of the Dunlap Success Center. In addition, the scholarship provided through participation in this program may help alleviate cost associated with acquiring appropriate business attire, if the student does not have an outstanding balance with the university.

I noticed that a LinkedIn profile is part of the application process, but I do not have a LinkedIn account, what should I do?

The Capitol culture is accustomed to connecting with peers through LinkedIn so having a LinkedIn profile will be imperative to a student's success in this program. Students that do not have one, can refer to this [how-to guide](#). Please know that applications will not be judged on the maturity of the profile or how many people are currently in the profile's network. However, it is important that the LinkedIn profile is well set up to be used during the internship.

I noticed the application requires a resume, but I do not have one, what should I do?

Creating a resume is an important first step toward beginning a professional career. Here at FSU, there are plenty of resources to help students create an impressive resume. Please reach out to the [FSU Career Center](#) for more information and guidance on creating a resume.

Will I have any contact or support from FSU staff during my internship?

Absolutely! During the internship, our staff will have Friday sessions with program participants. In addition, interns will see our Government Relations team constantly around the Capitol. Participants will also have a coordinator's personal cell phone in case any immediate assistance is needed.

Will this internship lead to a job at the Capitol or with the FSU Governmental Relations office?

While participation in the FSU Legislative Internship Program will not entitle the intern to a paid job at the conclusion of the internship, the internship is an opportunity for FSU students to learn about and gain valuable experience in Florida's legislative process, which will likely make them more marketable in their future job search.

Default Question Block

Personal Information

First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>
FSU Email Address	<input type="text"/>
Cell Phone	<input type="text"/>
FSU ID	<input type="text"/>
Nine Digit Student ID (EMPLID)	<input type="text"/>
Address 1	<input type="text"/>
Address 2	<input type="text"/>
City	<input type="text"/>
State	<input type="text"/>
Zip Code	<input type="text"/>
What is your hometown?	<input type="text"/>
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	<input type="text"/>
What is your Major?	<input type="text"/>
What academic year are you in?	<input type="text"/>
What year did you graduate high school?	<input type="text"/>
What is your current FSU cumulative GPA? <small><i>Disclosed GPA is subject to confirmation by selection committee</i></small>	<input type="text"/>
Expected Graduation Month and Year (mm/yyyy)	<input type="text"/>

Have you previously applied to Florida State University's Legislative Internship Program?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please specify the legislative session for which you previously applied and the outcome of your application.

Have you previously interned during Legislative Session? If so, with whom did you intern?

Please provide a URL to your LinkedIn account.

LinkedIn Link/ URL

Personal Statement -- Please describe in around 500 words your reason for applying for this internship, your background, and the aspects of legislative work that interest you most and why you should be selected to represent FSU.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin grey border, intended for a long-form text response. A small double-slash icon is visible in the bottom right corner.

Do you have any personal or professional relationships with anyone who works at the Governor's Office, the Legislature, lobby firms, or state agencies? If not, please respond N/A.

A smaller, empty rectangular box with a thin grey border, intended for a short-form text response. A small double-slash icon is visible in the bottom right corner.

Block 1

Areas of Interest- Choose only 5 areas of interest below and rank those areas in order of your preference (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) with number 1 being your greatest interest in the subject matter. **Drag and drop your top 5 preferences into the boxes provided:**

Items	Preference #1
Appropriations and Budget	
Commerce and Economic Development	
Agriculture and Environment	
K12 Education	Preference #2
Workforce and Technical Education	
Higher Education	
Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement	
Health and Human Services	Preference #3
Banking and Insurance	
Children and Families	
Finance and Tax	
Ethics and Elections	
Regulated Industries	Preference #4
Military and Veterans Affairs	
Communications and Media	
Republican Policy Office	
Democratic Policy Office	Preference #5

This internship will begin in January 2027 and continue through the 60-day legislative session, concluding on April 30, 2027. (National holidays will be observed; please refer to the full schedule on the FSU Office of Governmental Relations website.) **Participation will require foregoing spring break and maintaining full commitment to the internship throughout its duration.**

Are you prepared to meet this commitment?

- Yes
 No

Students must be enrolled at least part-time (6 credit hours) during Spring 2027 semester to participate in the Legislative Internship Program.

Due to the demands of the internship and legislative session in the spring, it may be difficult to take in-person daytime classes. Are you prepared to take evening or online classes in the Spring semester to accommodate your internship schedule?

- Yes
 No

Are you comfortable with the understanding that placements for this internship are subject to background checks and approval from the Senate, House of Representatives, and Governor's office?

- Yes
 No

It's important to note that your internship placement may require a drug test. If subjected to a drug test, would you meet the requirements for passing it?

- Yes

No

If no, please explain:

To assist in the placement of interns, it would be helpful to know if you are willing to work for members of either political party. Please select one of the following options that best represents your stance.

Note: Answers to this question and any preferences expressed will not be considered in determining which applicants are selected for an internship, but will only be used in assigning placements so that the internship experience will be beneficial to both the intern and the Florida Legislator.

- Yes, I am open to interning for members of both the Republican and Democratic parties
- I would prefer to intern for a Republican member, but would be willing to intern with a Democratic member
- I would prefer to intern for a Democratic member, but would be willing to intern with a Republican member
- While I am open to diverse perspectives, I would only intern for a Republican member
- While I am open to diverse perspectives, I would only intern for a Democratic member
- I would prefer not to answer this question

Have you ever been convicted of or pleaded guilty or no contest to a crime?

****Interns in certain office placements may be subject to a criminal background check***

Yes

No

If yes, please explain:

I authorize the FSU Office of Governmental Relations to check my academic, student conduct, and academic honesty records to verify eligibility for this position.

Type your first and last name as your digital signature.

Please provide two references and your relationship to them.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Relationship	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>
Name	<input type="text"/>
Relationship	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

Please upload your resume.

How did you hear about this program?

- NoleNetwork
- Campus Social Media
- Student Organization
- College of Social Science and Public Policy
- Word of Mouth
- Other

Block 2

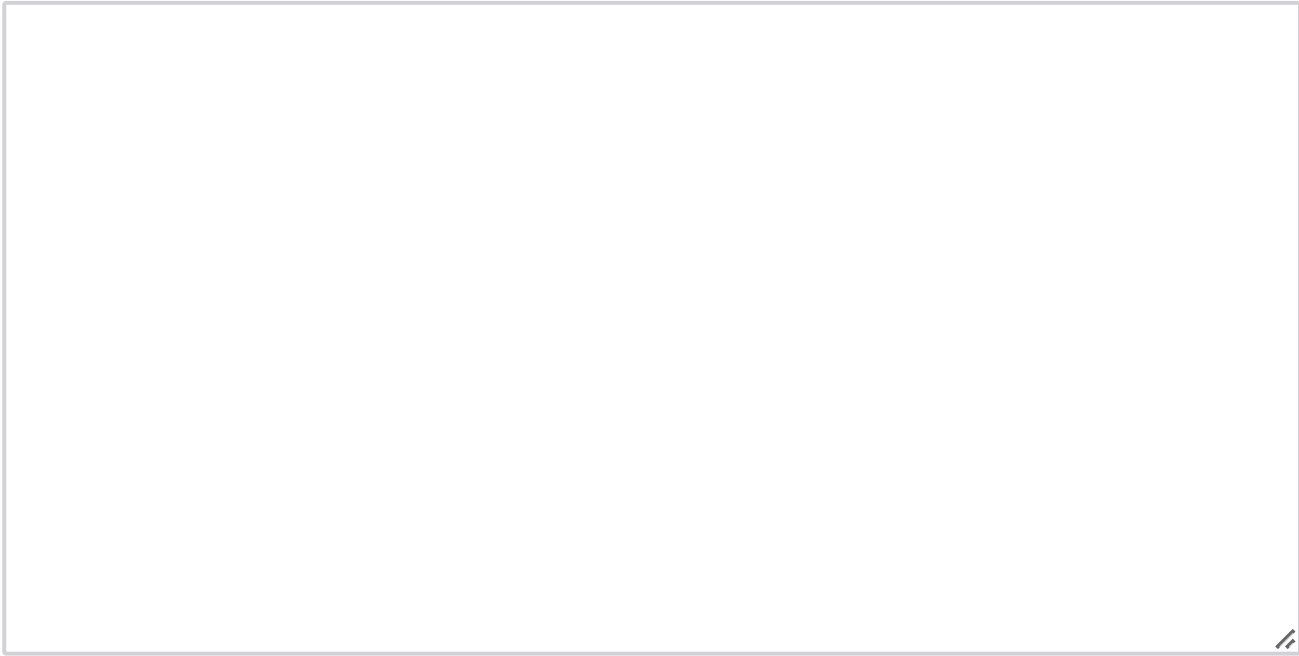
In accordance with Senate and House rules, interns are prohibited from directly or indirectly concerning themselves with passage or consideration of any issue coming before the legislature.

Are you affiliated with or do you hold leadership positions in any student organizations that engage with legislative bodies? (*i.e. OGA, SDS, SGA, etc.*)

- Yes
- No

Block 3

If yes, please explain:



Block 4

Are you willing to abstain from participating in any lobbying efforts or events held at the Capitol on behalf of your student organization for the duration of your internship?

- Yes
- No

Block 5

In accordance with Senate and House rules, it is required for every student to maintain professional dress and appearance throughout the duration of their internship. Are you willing to comply with these standards?

- Yes
- No

Block 6

Are you currently employed, or do you plan to seek outside employment during your internship?

- Yes
- No

Block 7

If yes, where are you employed and what are your hours?

Block 8

Spring Schedule:

To the best of your ability, please provide an estimate of what your schedule will entail. Provide days and meeting times.

Class 1	<input type="text"/>
Class 2	<input type="text"/>
Class 3	<input type="text"/>
Class 4	<input type="text"/>
Class 5	<input type="text"/>
Class 6	<input type="text"/>

Block 10

The Legislative Internship Program requires attendance at two mandatory in-person orientation sessions on Friday, January 8, 2027, and Friday, January 15, 2027, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In addition, interns must attend in-person training sessions each Friday from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. throughout the duration of the internship.

I understand that unexcused absences from any required session or from more than one program event may result in removal from the program.

✕ **SIGN HERE**

clear

Block 9

Interns serve at the pleasure of the office in which they are placed and shall conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. Failure to complete the internship or dismissal from the internship may affect the scholarship amount and can result in reduced or no class credit.

I hereby certify that all entries on this application and attachments are true and complete. I understand that any falsification of information may forfeit my application to the FSU Legislative Internship Program.

✕ **SIGN HERE**



