

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD

Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program





Illinois State Government – A Great Place to Start

As the focal point of policy development and political activity, Illinois state government has become an exciting arena for young people to experience state government first-hand by working as an Illinois Legislative Staff Intern with the legislative leaders who will shape public policy in Illinois for the next decade.

For over 30 years, the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program (ILSIP) has provided 24 unique internship experiences for keenly interested, deeply motivated and talented individuals to work within state government. With the capitol as both workplace and classroom, ILSIP interns earn eight (8) graduate credits from the University of Illinois at Springfield.





Funded by the Illinois General Assembly through the Legislative Research Unit and administered by the University of Illinois at Springfield, ILSIP grew out of a desire to provide individuals with diverse experience and back-

grounds insight into the legislative process. The program offers interns a ten and one half month (10.5), full-time position as a professional legislative staff member working with either the Illinois General Assembly or Legislative Research Unit. Interns also participate in an academic seminar conducted by UIS faculty.

This experience is intended to broaden the perspective of those planning academic, business or government careers so that they will carry into their chosen fields an understanding of the legislative process and how it relates to their work. In addition to providing interns exposure to the legislative process, the program provides legislative leaders with research and other professional staff assistance.

After completing this program many interns continue working in state government, while others gain employment at other levels of government, attend law school, or pursue opportunities in the private sector.

Individuals with undergraduate or advanced degrees in all fields are encouraged to apply. There is no preferred major, and there is no need to be a recent graduate. The most important qualifications are critical thinking, strong writing skills, and a strong interest in public policy and politics. Prior legislative or political experience is a plus, but is not required.

Legislative Staff Internships with Partisan Staffs

Each year five (5) interns are placed with each of the four legislative partisan staffs, the House Democrats, the House Republicans, the Senate Democrats, and the Senate Republicans, of the Illinois General Assembly. Partisan staffs are directed by the legislative leaders and serve the members of their respective political party. Following orientation and the academic seminar, these twenty interns perform the same duties as regular staff members. The duties include analyzing bills prior to committee and floor action, evaluating budget requests from state agencies, researching issues, drafting bills, handling press and member services, and completing additional staff assignments for the legislative leader and members of the party caucus.



“The Illinois Legislative Intern Program was a great opportunity for me. It was a door opener for my time spent in state government.”

Jim Edgar,
Former Governor, State of Illinois

Research Internships with the Legislative Research Unit

Three internships are general research positions with the Legislative Research Unit (LRU). A bipartisan research agency of the Illinois General Assembly, the LRU researches a wide variety of questions on public issues for legislators. After completing basic instruction in the legislative process, interns work independently and with other LRU staff on legislative research requests. Research results are presented as memos to legislators making requests, general research reports, and a variety of regular LRU publications.

Individuals with undergraduate or advanced degrees in all fields, especially in economics, political science and business, are encouraged to apply. The most important qualifications are critical thinking and strong writing skills. Prior legislative or political experience is a plus, but is not required.



“ILSIP is an extremely valuable program which provides unprecedented insight into the legislative process.”

Kurt M. Granberg,
Assistant Majority Leader

Science Writing Internship with the Legislative Research Unit

Each year, the LRU also offers one science writing internship to an applicant who has a natural sciences background, an interest in public policy and wants to improve his/her writing for the nonscientific reader audience. As with other LRU interns, the science writing intern receives basic instruction in the legislative process and then works either independently or with other LRU staff on research requests. In addition to written reports, research findings on scientific topics are often published in the LRU legislative newsletter, *First Reading*.

Individuals with undergraduate or advanced degrees from all scientific and professional disciplines are encouraged to apply. In addition to a scientific background, applicants for this position need critical thinking and strong writing skills. Prior legislative or political experience is a plus, but is not required.



“My experience with the Illinois Legislative Intern Program provided a wonderful foundation for a career in public service.”

**William G. Holland,
Illinois State Auditor General**

ILSIP and LRU Program Benefits and Information

Start and End Date

All internships begin August 16 and end June 30.

Stipend

\$2,026 per month for 10.5 months

Minimum Qualifications

Applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree prior to the August 16 start date. Applicants for positions with the LRU must have an undergraduate grade point average of a “B” or higher. Applications are reviewed for demonstrated academic excellence, professional achievement, community service involvement, political awareness, and leadership potential.

Health Insurance

Interns are eligible for regular student insurance, with the premium being paid by the program.





College Credit

Interns earn eight (8) hours of graduate credit in Political Studies for completing the academic seminar and the internship placement.

Tuition and Fees

The costs for all tuition, mandatory fees, and books related to the academic seminar are paid through the program.

Academic Seminar

To complement the internship experience, all interns are required to participate in a graduate level academic seminar on issues relating to the legislature and its role in state government. The seminar combines a series of noted speakers, discussions, and coursework to provide a theoretical and practical context for the internship.

Application Requirements

- completed ILSIP application
- transcripts from each college and university attended
- resume
- short biographical sketch / personal statement (1 - 2 pages) highlighting how your interests, experience, and background would benefit you in your role as an ILSIP intern
- three letters of recommendation
- essay (2 - 5 pages) discussing one issue facing Illinois government and suggested policy changes relevant to the issue.
- LRU applicants are required to submit a resume along with an additional writing sample.

Application Deadline

The deadline for application is February 1. Twenty four (24) interns are selected by mid-May, after an initial screening of applications and a panel interview of finalists. Interviews are held at the Capitol Building in Springfield. The deliberations of the selection committee are confidential and final. All applications become the property of the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Application Materials

To request an application packet please complete and return the attached postage paid postcard to the Institute for Legal, Legislative and Policy Studies, University of Illinois at Springfield, One University Plaza MS PAC 451, Springfield, Illinois 62703-5407. Or, you may request information by telephone at 217/206-6579. Application information is also available online at <http://ilsip.uis.edu>.

Program Administration

The Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program is administered for the Illinois General Assembly by the Institute for Legal, Legislative and Policy Studies, University of Illinois at Springfield.



“The Illinois Legislative Intern Program was my steppingstone to become the Governor’s Chief of Staff and an Illinois State Senator. It is one of the country’s premier internship programs.”

Kirk W. Dillard,
Illinois State Senator



***Positions held by former Illinois
Legislative Staff Interns:***

Governor, Congressman, State Legislator,
Governor’s Chief of Staff, Governor’s Legislative
Liaison, State Agency Director, State Agency
Legislative Liaison, Partisan Legislative Staffs,
Contract and Corporate Lobbyists

Center for State Policy and Leadership

ILSIP is located within the Center for State Policy and Leadership at the University of Illinois at Springfield. The Center offers unparalleled opportunities for political internships and hands-on learning in government. The Center provides the national stage for noted scholars, students, policy makers, and citizens to exchange ideas, engage in research, and expand their understanding of public policy issues.

The University of Illinois at Springfield

UIS is one of three campuses of the world-class University of Illinois. UIS is located on 746 acres on the southeast side of Springfield – the capital city, near Lake Springfield. The campus celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2000. Student enrollment exceeds 4,000 and is comprised of traditional residential students and part-time non-traditional students.

UIS is closely allied with state government through a close working relationship with legislative and administrative offices. UIS academic programs are designed to maximize the use of the capital city's resources through federal and state agencies that provide internship opportunities for students. Politics on all levels can be studied in Springfield.



Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program



A Great Place to Start



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***Yes, I would like to know more
about the Illinois Legislative Staff
Intern Program. Please send me
an information packet.***

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____

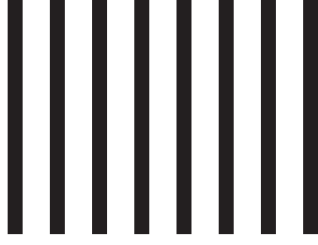
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Institute for Legal, Legislative and Policy Studies

University of Illinois at Springfield

PO Box 19243

Springfield IL 62794-9980





INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL, LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD
ONE UNIVERSITY PLAZA, MS PAC 451
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62703-5407

PHONE: 217/206-6579

FAX: 217/206-7397

EMAIL: vandykebrown.barbara@uis.edu

WEBSITE:

ILSIP – <http://ilsip.uis.edu>

UIS – www.uis.edu



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ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD IS
AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION,
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