



Senate Committee Services

Summer Intern Program

Questions & Answers

What do interns do for Senate Committee Services (SCS)?

Interns are generally assigned to one of the 14 standing committees of the State Senate. Interns will conduct non partisan legal, fiscal, and policy research for the committees, and may be asked to draft legislation and give presentations before the committees.

What does "nonpartisan" mean?

Nonpartisanship is an essential distinguishing characteristic of SCS staff. We provide the same high quality service and put forth the same effort for all senators regardless of political belief, affiliation, or rank. To ensure the appearance of nonpartisanship, staff should avoid public conduct that might lead an observer to believe we cannot provide impartial service to each senator.

What training and education opportunities are available for interns?

- An orientation will provide information on legislative organization and process.
- Regular seminars are held with state agency directors, lobbyists, judges, and appointed or elected officials.
- Interns draft, analyze, and present bills at a mock hearing modeled on committee hearings held during the legislative session.

Who is eligible to apply for the summer internship?

Senate Committee Services actively recruits second-year law students and first-year graduate students in public administration and other relevant programs.

How are interns chosen?

Interns are selected based on demonstrated oral and written communication skills, research and analysis skills, interpersonal skills, and interest in public service.

How are interns assigned to committees?

Interns are assigned to committees primarily based on the "needs of the Senate." However, interns' personal interests are considered to some degree if assignments are available with the respective committees. Additionally, interns are typically assigned to one or two committees for the 10-week period. The committees currently include the following:

- Agriculture, Water, Trade & Economic Development
- Commerce, Labor & Sports
- Early Learning & K-12 Education
- Energy, Environment & Telecommunications
- Financial Institutions & Insurance
- Health Care
- Higher Education
- Human Services, Mental Health & Housing
- Law & Justice
- Local Government
- Natural Resources & Parks
- State Government
- Transportation
- Ways & Means

Who are the interviewers?

Kim Cushing, Senior Counsel for the Senate Energy, Environment, & Telecommunications Committee. Kim has been at SCS since 2007 and previously staffed the Early Learning, K-12 Education and Higher Education Committees. Kim has a B.A. from Pacific Lutheran University and a J.D. from Seattle University School of Law.

Curt Gavigan, Coordinator/Counsel for the Senate Natural Resources & Parks Committee. He has a B.A. from Pacific Lutheran University and a J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law. Curt has been working for Senate Committee Services since 2004.

Kim Johnson, Senior Staff Counsel for the Senate Transportation Committee. She has a B.A. in Political Science from Montana State University and a J.D. from Creighton University School of Law. Kim has served on several committees in the Senate since starting with Senate Committee Services in 2002.

What is the recruitment schedule?

August - October	First interviews
October - November	Final interviews, if necessary
October - November	Positions offered to three to six interns

How long is the internship?

Interns may choose any ten-week period from May to September.

How much are interns paid?

Interns are paid approximately \$2,807 per month. Interns do not receive additional employee benefits or paid time off.

Will SCS provide housing?

No. But SCS can provide information for those seeking short-term housing in Olympia.