



Senate Committee Services Summer Intern Program Questions & Answers

What do interns do for Senate Committee Services?

Interns are generally assigned to one of the 15 standing committees of the State Senate. Interns will conduct legal, fiscal, and policy research for the committees, and may be asked to draft legislation and give presentations before the committees.

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 and present a bill at a mock hearing modeled on committee hearings held during the legislative session.

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:

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

Who are the interviewers?

Kim Cushing, Coordinator/Counsel for Senate Higher Education Committee, has been at Senate Committee Services since 2007. Before joining the Senate, she clerked for a year at Kitsap County Superior Court. Prior to becoming an attorney, she was a publicist and editor in the book publishing industry for five years. 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 - September	First interviews
October - November	Approximately 10 candidates selected for final interviews
November - December	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 \$2,725 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.