FAQs for Washington State Legislative Internship (TPOLS 497)

Who qualifies for a Washington State Legislative internship?
You must be a Junior or Senior.

When do I apply?
The application deadline varies each year but is always at the end of October.

How do I get an application?
Applications can be found at http://www.leg.wa.gov/internships/

How many credits do I earn?
You will earn 15 credits.

Who selects the interns?
The internship coordinators for the state legislature are responsible for selecting interns. UW Tacoma plays no role in selecting interns.

What does the application process entail?
In addition to completing a written application, each applicant is interviewed by the internship coordinators in Olympia and asked to conduct a short writing exercise following the formal interview.

Do I apply directly to the Legislature, or do I apply through UW Tacoma?
Some schools require students to apply through their school. We do not. You should send or take your application directly to Olympia.

When do I find out whether or not I have been accepted?
It varies, but students are usually notified around Thanksgiving whether or not they have been accepted as a legislative intern.

Where would I be doing the internship? For whom would I be working?
The internship will be done at the state legislature in Olympia. The internship coordinators will place you with one or more state legislators, either in the Senate or in the House.

About how many hours per week would I be expected to work during the internship?
The internship is full-time, so you will be expected to work at least 40 hours per week.

Is there a class syllabus, and if so, how do I get one?
Yes, there is a class syllabus. It can be obtained from the internship coordinator.
What are the academic requirements?
You will be expected to maintain a weekly journal, attend scheduled individual and class meetings, and write a 25 page policy research paper. The policy research paper will be related to the work you will be doing for the internship, and it will be completed with direct guidance and feedback from the internship coordinator throughout the quarter.

Are state legislative internships paid?
Yes, you will receive a monthly stipend. In the past this has been around $1,200/month.

How does this internship fit into my PPE degree?
This internship satisfies your capstone requirement. In addition, 5 credits can be applied to the PPE track you are specializing in, and 5 credits can be applied to another track.

How do I get questions about this internship answered that are not addressed here?
We hold informational sessions on this internship every spring and fall. That is the best place to get your questions answered. These sessions are broadly advertised, but to make sure you find out about the next one, sign up for the PPE list serve at: https://mailman2.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/ppe.

Still have more questions? Contact Professor Chuck Rowling at rowlingc@uw.edu