Semester-in-Practice Externship

The Semester-in-Practice Externship Experience

The Semester-in-Practice (SIP) Externship is an innovative program that empowers students in their third year or second semester of their second year to gain hands-on professional experience anywhere outside the St. Louis area. Through the externship program, students earn academic credit by spending a semester working full time for a nonprofit, government, or in-house corporate law office in the location of their choice. Students work directly with an attorney/field supervisor at their placement site and will receive oversight at the law school from a faculty supervisor. Additionally, Career Services helps to identify a suitable attorney (for each placement) to support the student’s networking efforts.

Typical Activities

The precise activities will vary by placement, but students will have the opportunity to engage in various areas of lawyering practice, such as interviewing, counseling, investigation, drafting, negotiation, litigation, or settlement.

Information for non-U.S. Citizens

Non-U.S. citizens should note that most federal government offices will only consider externs who are U.S. citizens.

The Bottom Line

- The course is graded on credit/no credit basis.
- There is no final exam for this course.
- This course is an 12 credit course.
- Note: Credits from this course count toward the 19 maximum credits a J.D. student can take in non-law classes and law classes without a classroom component or clinics/externships without direct supervision of the clinical work by a law school faculty member.

Prerequisites

Course from the ethics curriculum; courses relevant to the subject matter of the placement are highly recommended.

Requirements

Externs must work 40 hours per week for 15 weeks at their placement to earn 12 credits.

Students must also:
- Identify a possible placement site
- Participate in a pre-semester orientation
- Meet weekly with faculty supervisor via telephone
- Complete weekly reflective journal entries

Admission to the externship is by application only. Students pre-register for the externship, and final selections are made based on faculty recommendations, statement of interest, writing sample, and demonstrated academic achievement. Both the student and the placement site must receive approval.

Semester-in-Practice Externship Faculty

Professor Mary Perry
mlperry@wustl.edu
(314) 935-7828