

Texas Legislative Internship/Bullock Scholars

Baylor University
Political Science (PSC) 3698 (6 credits)
Spring 2023

Bullock Scholars will complete the requirements described below to earn six credits. The goal of this course is to acquire hands-on experience through a substantive internship in the Texas Legislature and, by doing so, advance your career goals and understanding of government, politics, and policymaking. For students graduating in the spring, all assignments must be completed by May 11. For students not graduating, all assignments must be completed by June 15 (final letter grade will be listed as “incomplete” until then).

Course Requirements

1. Intern full-time in a state representative or senator’s office at the capitol in Austin for the Spring 2023 (January 10 – May 29) legislative session. Students will live and work in Austin full-time for the duration of the session. The program director will assist in placing interns in a legislator’s office after consultation with each student.
2. Before your internship begins, you will write a 3-4 page background report on your legislator’s office that explains (a) the professional and political experience of the legislator, (b) specific issue/policy areas that the legislator focuses on, (c) the organizational structure of the office, and (d) your anticipated duties and responsibilities. You will upload the report (as with all written work for the course) to our course Canvas page in the Assignments tab.
3. Every Friday you will write and upload a 1-2 paragraph summary of your tasks and activities at the internship during that week. Be sure to note any experiences that were particularly important or memorable, as these can be very useful for taking stock of your internship after it is over.
4. The program director will complete a minimum of two on-site evaluations. Interns will be notified of the scheduled visit and are expected to be present to discuss their responsibilities and experiences. The program director will also speak with the intern’s supervisor in the office to check on their performance.
5. When you have completed the internship, you will write and upload a 5-6 page reflective summary where you identify (a) the skills you learned/honed, (b) what experiences were particularly meaningful, (c) how the internship will aid your career goals going forward, and (d) one area of legislation/policy or a project with which you were especially involved or interested and discuss the progress (or lack thereof) that was made.

Texas Legislative Internship Program Director

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