



Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute *Congressional Internship Program*

Hello Political Science Students,

February 2009

If you are an outstanding student and are going to be a junior or senior next year, I invite you to apply for the Leon and Sylvia Panetta Institute Congressional Internship Program, taking place in Fall 2009.

The Panetta Institute at California State University – Monterey Bay, headed by Santa Clara Political Science alumnus, former adjunct faculty member, and current CIA Director Leon Panetta along with his wife Sylvia Panetta, offers an opportunity for students to gain an inside look of the legislative branch of the U.S. Federal Government and Washington politics.

Program Specifics:

This Congressional internship begins with a two-week course at California State University, Monterey Bay, where students work directly with Mr. and Mrs. Panetta and other seasoned veterans examining the legislative process and its functions. The remaining two and a half months of the internship will be spent in Washington, D.C. working on Capitol Hill in the office of a member of the California congressional delegation. One exceptional Santa Clara University student is chosen each year for this internship.

- Students will work in the office of a member of Congress in Washington D.C.
- One exceptional Santa Clara University student is chosen each year
- This program is FULLY-SUBSIDIZED (all-expenses paid) and includes airfare and housing plus a monthly stipend.
- Students spend 2 weeks in Monterey and 8 weeks in D.C. (as outlined above)
- Units and grades transfer to SCU (between 20 – 30 units as Poli UD Electives)

Application Process:

- Applications are available in the Poli Sci office (A&S 230) or on the poli sci webpage at www.scu.edu/cas/polisci. Click on the “Public Sector Studies” link then scroll down to “Panetta Institute”.
- The deadline to apply is Friday, March 6th at 5pm (A&S 230 – turn into Therese Mathis)
- Write a statement of purpose/ essay (500 words or fewer) stating the reasons for your interest in the program
- A panel interview will also be conducted (typically consisting of three professors interviewing you). You will be contacted to set up a time to be interviewed. Interviews will take place the week of March 9th
- Students will be notified of acceptance by Thursday, March 12th

Minimum Requirements to Apply:

- Students must be in their junior or senior year in Fall 2009
- Have demonstrated an interest in politics and public policy, a sustained commitment to community and public service, and have leadership potential.
- Have a minimum 3.3 GPA.

(Over for Additional Information)

Common Questions:

**** How does the Panetta Internship differ from the Washington Semester Program? ****

Other than the greater degree of selectiveness for the Panetta Internship, the main difference between Washington Semester and the Panetta Internship is that the Panetta Internship's Washington D.C. component consists primarily of the internship experience, supplemented by weekly seminars with Mr. Panetta and guest speakers. Participants gain hands-on experience through full-time work in a Congressional office. It is a smaller program, with 23 participants, most of whom are Cal State University students. In addition, all expenses are covered in the Panetta Program.

In contrast, the Washington Semester Program's internship program is only one of four courses, and the seminar comprises two of the courses (the research paper or elective is the fourth course). Internships can be with Members of Congress or any of thousands of other organizations and offices in Washington D.C. The Washington Semester Program (WSP) is relatively large, with about 400 participants from throughout the country and overseas. While generous financial aid is available through WSP, it may not cover all of your costs.

**** How do I know which program to apply for (WSP or Panetta Internship)? ****

If you are interested in both programs then you should apply for both. Remember, only ONE SCU student will be chosen to participate in the Panetta Congressional Internship. Thus, apply for both programs; if you are chosen for the Panetta Internship you can decide which program you would prefer to participate in.

**** Do I have to choose between the Panetta Internship and the Washington Semester Program? ****

If you are accepted for the Panetta Congressional Internship and you are a junior, you still have the option of participating in the Washington Semester Program during your senior year. You will want to check with your academic advisor to ensure that participating in either or both programs will not impede your graduation.

All eligible students are encouraged to apply for this internship!

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Elsa Chen (echen@scu.edu) or Therese Mathis (tmathis@scu.edu).

Best Regards,
Professor Chen

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