

Southern Illinois University

**VINCE DEMUZIO
GOVERNMENTAL
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**



“The Senator Vince Demuzio Internship Program is an appropriate legacy to an outstanding lawmaker.

Senator Vince always understood the incredible force that education could play in improving people’s lives. He was such a strong advocate for our students, encouraging them to earn their degrees and to participate in the democratic process. This internship program is an ideal way to forever recognize his efforts and for a new generation of public leaders to gain first-hand experience in state government.

*The Honorable Pat Quinn
Governor of Illinois*

Southern Illinois University

Southern Illinois University is a multi-campus university comprising two institutions, Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) with a School of Medicine in Springfield, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) with a School of Dental Medicine in Alton and a center in East St. Louis. Southern Illinois University, with an annual operating budget of more than \$600 million, enrolls more than 33,000 students in programs from two-year technical curricula to Ph.D. programs in 27 fields along with law, medicine, dental medicine, and pharmacy. SIU was chartered in 1869 as Southern Illinois Normal University, a teachers college. In 1947, the name was changed to Southern Illinois University, reflecting the institution's academic expansion. SIU also expanded geographically. As early as 1949, SIU began offering off-campus academic courses in the metropolitan East St. Louis area, which led to the eventual development of a separate institution in Edwardsville.

SIU is committed to serving statewide, national, and international needs. The instructional, research, and service missions of the two institutions also reflect the needs of the geographic areas in which they are located. This commitment is reflected in the educational activities located off the main campuses in communities throughout the state and in programs offered on military bases in seventeen states. It is also realized through research and training exchanges, worldwide student exchange programs, and degree programs in Jamaica, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

The nine-member Board of Trustees governs SIU and sets policy that enables it to carry out its established missions and goals. The president of SIU is its chief executive officer and reports to the Board of Trustees. The chancellors of SIUC and SIUE report directly to the president and are responsible for the internal operations of their respective campuses.



Vince Demuzio Governmental Internship Program

This program offered through Southern Illinois University provides thirty paid internship opportunities—fifteen at each campus—to SIU undergraduate students interested in professional careers in politics and with state government. Students from all academic backgrounds who have reached junior status (i.e., completed fifty-six hours of course work) and who are in good academic standing are invited to apply to the program.

The program is named after Senator Vince Demuzio of Carlinville, who, after battling colon cancer, died April 27, 2004. A champion of Downstate Illinois, Senator Demuzio was elected to the Senate in 1974, served as chairman of the state Democratic Party from 1986 to 1990, and was serving as Majority Leader of the Illinois Senate at the time of his death at age 62.

The Vince Demuzio Governmental Internship Program offers two distinct types of internship experience.

- ◆ Legislative staff internships with House and Senate Republicans and Democrats. Typically, interns work in the home office fifteen to twenty hours per week while attending classes full time and perform duties as regular staff members. The most important criteria for the internship experience are good oral and written communication skills and a strong commitment to public service.
- ◆ Internships with a state agency. Typically, interns work fifteen to twenty hours per week in one of several local state agency offices while attending classes full time and perform duties as regular staff members. The most important criteria for the internship experience are good oral and written communication skills and a strong commitment to public service.

Interns placed in state agencies begin working on or about the start of the fall semester. Interns in legislative district offices may begin working any time internship positions are available. Subject to evaluation, interns may work upwards of eight semesters. Concurrently, they enroll for two or three hours of internship credit each semester. Enrollment in the internship course is waived for the first semester if the internship begins six weeks or later into the fall or spring semester. Upon completion of the internship, many students seek employment at other levels of government, pursue further graduate or professional education, or choose career opportunities in the private sector.

The program has several objectives:

- ◆ Make Illinois state government an attractive career goal for college graduates.
- ◆ Provide undergraduate college students with a unique opportunity to work in and observe close hand the benefits of careers in public service.
- ◆ Partner with participating legislators and state agencies in their efforts to attract qualified candidates to careers in state government.

What are the requirements for eligibility?

- ◆ Maintain full-time student status through period of internship (minimum of twelve credit hours per fall/spring semester and six credit hours during summer sessions) and make good academic progress toward degree completion as determined by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- ◆ Minimum of junior status (i.e., at least fifty-six hours of baccalaureate-level course work) and be in good academic standing.
- ◆ Minimum GPA of 2.75 overall and/or 3.00 in the major on a 4.00 scale.
- ◆ Willingness to commit for a one- to two-year period of time.
- ◆ Concurrent enrollment in a two- to three-credit-hour internship course for fall and spring semesters (summer session excluded), for which students will complete reading and writing assignments related to the internship experience as assigned by SIU faculty. Enrollment in internship course is waived if internship begins six weeks or later into the fall or spring semester.

What is the salary paid to interns?

Interns who work sixty hours per month receive \$720 per month; interns who work eighty hours per month receive \$960 per month.*

When is the application deadline?

Applications are received any time during the year and, depending upon eligibility and availability, are referred to the appropriate legislator or department supervisor for consideration.

Who administers the program?

Legislative staff internships are administered for the Illinois General Assembly by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Southern Illinois University (tel. 618-536-3465). Internships in the state agencies are administered at SIUC by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute (tel. 618-453-4009) and at SIUE by the Career Development Center (tel. 618-650-3708).

“The governmental internship program was a great opportunity for me. I learned much more than any classroom could teach on how legislation begins and ends. I loved working with the community and helping the constituents become more involved in the process.”

*-Arla Capel, Intern for State Representative
John Bradley*

*Rates are established by and may be modified by the Office of the President.

How do I apply?

- ◆ Fill out the attached application form and write the required essay.
- ◆ Request letters of recommendation from two people who know you personally or professionally. At least one reference should be from an individual who can evaluate your academic work. Submit your application, essay, and letters of reference to your college/school dean. The dean will forward the application packet to the appropriate office for processing.
- ◆ After an initial screening process, the best qualified candidates will be invited for an interview. If you are selected for an interview, you will be notified. Every effort will be made to arrange interviews at times convenient to applicants.
- ◆ Applicants **must** be available for a personal interview.

Where can I obtain application materials?

Application material for the legislative staff internships can be obtained at the following office:

Legislative Staff Internship Program
Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
Southern Illinois University
Stone Center
1400 Douglas Drive
Mail Code 6801
Carbondale, IL 62901

Applications for internships with the state agencies can be obtained at the following offices:

Internship Program
Paul Simon Public Policy Institute
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Mail Code 4429
Carbondale, IL 62901

Internship Program
Career Development Center
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Founders Hall 3126
Campus Box 1620
Edwardsville, IL 62026-1620

"The SIU undergraduate governmental internship program provides a valuable and practical governmental experience. The students who have interned in my district office have been outstanding young people who have not only gained valuable work experience, but also provided professional constituent service to the citizens of my district."

- State Representative Mike Bost

Application information is also available on the Web at www.siu.edu.

Legislative District Offices and Agencies Participating in the Vince Demuzio Governmental Internship Program**

SIU Carbondale

Legislative District Offices

State Representative, 115th District, Carbondale
State Representative, 116th District, Sparta
State Representative, 117th District, Marion
State Representative, 118th District, Harrisburg
State Senator, 58th District, Carbondale
State Senator, 59th District, Benton

State Agencies

Capital Development Board
Illinois Department of Agriculture
Illinois Department of Central Management Services
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Illinois Department of Corrections
Illinois Department of Employment Security
Illinois Department of Human Rights
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Department of Labor
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois Department of Revenue
Illinois Department of Transportation
Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois State Police
Office of the Illinois Attorney General
Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal

SIU Edwardsville

Legislative District Offices

State Representative, 97th District, Jacksonville
State Representative, 98th District, Gillespie
State Representative, 102nd District, Highland
State Representative, 111th District, East Alton
State Representative, 112th District, Collinsville
State Representative, 113th District, Belleville
State Representative, 114th District, East St. Louis
State Senator, 49th District, Carlinville
State Senator, 51st District, Greenville
State Senator, 56th District, Alton
State Senator, 57th District, East St. Louis

State Agencies

Capital Development Board
Illinois Board of Higher Education
Illinois Commerce Commission
Illinois Department of Central Management Services
Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Illinois Department of Corrections
Illinois Department of Employment Security
Illinois Department of Human Services
Illinois Department of Insurance
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Department of Public Aid
Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services
Illinois Department of Revenue
Illinois Department of Transportation
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Gaming Board
Illinois House of Representatives
Illinois Office of Management & Budget
Illinois State Geological Survey
Illinois State Museum
Illinois State Police
Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Illinois Supreme Court
Office of the Illinois Auditor General
Office of the Illinois Comptroller
Office of the Illinois Governor
Office of the Illinois Lieutenant Governor
Office of the Illinois Secretary of State

**The list of legislative district offices and state agencies is not all-inclusive. District offices and state agencies may not always have openings for interns. Depending upon agency requirements, applicants may be subject to a background check.

Other Opportunities

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Michael Curry Summer Internship Program. This program encourages college juniors, seniors, and graduate students in all disciplines to apply for a ten-week summer internship. Applicants must be Illinois residents. Additional information can be found at www.illinois.gov/gov/intopportunities.htm.

James H. Dunn, Jr. Memorial Fellowship Program. This program supports a number of one-year fellowships with annual compensation and full state benefits. Minimum qualification is completion of a bachelor's degree. Competition is nationwide, and therefore positions are open to out-of-state as well as Illinois residents. Additional information can be found at www.illinois.gov/gov/intopportunities.htm.

Vito Marzullo Internship Program. This program mirrors the James H. Dunn, Jr. Memorial Fellowship Program in that qualifications, responsibilities, and compensation are the same. Students complete one application for both programs and are awarded either a fellowship or an internship based on residency at time of application. The Vito Marzullo Internship Program is open only to residents of Illinois. Additional information can be found at www.illinois.gov/gov/intopportunities.htm.

"This internship has really afforded me an opportunity to see the inner workings of politics. I have learned so much about our state government; I am very grateful to have had this experience."

*- Stefanie Pasquino,
Intern for State
Senator Gary Forby*

"As an educator, I always believed the best way for students to learn was from practical experiences. The SIU undergraduate governmental internship program is an excellent hands-on program that allows students to experience public service in a direct and meaningful manner."

- State Senator David Luechtefeld

OTHER STATE AGENCIES

Governor's Environmental Corps. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency sponsors the annual Governor's Environmental Corps summer internship program, which continues to be privately funded by Illinois corporations. The nine-week program provides opportunities for students studying biological sciences, physical sciences, chemistry, engineering, pre-law, and communications. Additional information can be found at www.epa.state.il.us/gec/index.html.

Pollution Prevention Internship Program. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency annually recruits upper-level university students to work on pollution prevention (P2) and energy efficiency (E2) projects during the summer. Students selected for the twelve-week session typically have backgrounds in engineering, environmental management, or chemistry. Additional information can be found at www.epa.state.il.us/p2/internships/index.html.

"The expansion of the Senator Vince Demuzio Governmental Internship Program into the SIUE area is particularly exciting. My office looks forward to being able to provide an internship experience for those SIUE students interested in careers in public service."

*- State Representative
Jay Hoffman*

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

In addition to the state-supported internship programs offered by the Office of the Governor, Southern Illinois University administers the Senator Penny Severns Scholarships. From the premature death of Senator Penny Severns has come a program that positively impacts the lives of SIUC students. Beginning fall 2000, four scholarships have been made available to support students planning careers in public service: (1) The Senator Penny Severns Macon County Scholarship, (2) The Senator Penny Severns Making a Difference Endowed Scholarship, (3) The Senator Penny Severns Character Counts Endowed Scholarship, and (4) The Senator Penny Severns Women's Public Service Endowed Scholarship and Internship Award. Included in the Women's Public Service Endowed Scholarship and Internship Award is financial assistance for a nine-week summer internship position with a constitutional officer, member of the General Assembly, or state agency. For more information, please write to the Coordinator of Recruitment and Retention, College of Liberal Arts, Southern Illinois University, Faner 2427, Mail Code 4522, Carbondale, Illinois, 62901, or call 618-453-2466.

"For the future of our governmental institutions, it is very important for young people to experience public service. Having known and worked with Senator Demuzio for many years, I know Vince would be particularly proud of an educational program designed to attract bright and committed young people to government service."

- State Senator Bill Haine



Experience it!



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Southern Illinois University

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*Photographs courtesy of
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