

PRELAW LEGAL INTERNSHIPS

Q: HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR AN INTERNSHIP?

You must be enrolled at BYU as an undergraduate or graduate student to receive internship credit. Because you will be required to secure your own placement there is no priority given to class placement.

Q: WHY SHOULD I DO A LEGAL INTERNSHIP?

Legal internships as an undergraduate can provide you with the opportunity to see firsthand what it looks like to practice as an attorney. Seeing attorney work product, observing attorneys interacting with their clients, and developing a network of attorneys early can be valuable for you to feel confident that becoming a lawyer is the right career for you. But legal internships do not necessarily provide you with an advantage for law school admissions or mean you are better prepared for law school.

Q: HOW MANY CREDITS CAN I REGISTER FOR?

You can receive up to 3 credit hours per internship from our department. For each credit hour, you are required by the university to complete 42 hours of work. Thus, 1 credit is 42 hours of work, 2 credits requires 84 hours of work, and 3 credits equals 126 hours of work.

Q: HOW DO I SET UP MY INTERNSHIP?

Once students establish a location to do an internship, the student may be eligible for university credit through our department. You can receive credit during both semesters and both terms for self-initiated internships by applying for the course through IRAMS. If your internship location has never provided internship credit to a BYU student before, the internship provider will be required to complete a Master Internship Agreement that BYU's Internship Office will provide.

Q: WHAT PAPERWORK DO I NEED TO SUBMIT?

After you apply and are accepted for an internship through our office, you will receive a packet with all your placement information. To add the class, you need to go through IRAMS (Internship Registration and Management System). You can access this system through AIM. When you try to add the internship course (STDEV 496R), it will automatically redirect you to IRAMS. Once there, you will need to fill out all your personal and placement information. Once you've finished the online forms and submitted your application, we will approve your application and you will be allowed to register for the class. During the first week of the semester, you will also need to come in and complete the Student Agreement Form.

Q: WHAT KIND OF WORK IS EXPECTED IN A LEGAL INTERNSHIP?

The work varies from firm to firm. Some interns help with office work (filing, making copies, and writing memos), while others spend a considerable amount of time doing research and going to court. The kind of work you could be assigned is almost entirely dependent on how proactive you are.

Q: ARE LEGAL INTERNSHIPS PAID?

It depends . . . unfortunately many legal internships are not paid; particularly if you are receiving course credit. In some cases, students who have done excellent work for a firm have been hired after the completion of their internship. Others students have found their own paid positions at a firm and have signed up to receive internship credit through our office.