

Which internship should I take 396 or 397?

Political science offers two different kinds of internship within the department.

PSCI 396 Internship Seminar is a project-based internship and PSCI 397 Internship in Administration is an apprenticeship-based internship.

The department allows students to take up to two internships, and they may elect to take one, one of each, or two of the same kind.

PSCI 396 will be evaluated in the following way:

- 25% Journal
- 25% Supervisor's evaluation
- 25% Process component
- 25% Outcome component

PSCI 397 will be evaluated in the following way:

- 25% Journal
- 25% Supervisor's evaluation
- 50% Policy paper

In the case of both PSCI 396 and PSCI 397, students need to fill out a learning contract, which is available from the Career Center and on their website, see <http://www.iwu.edu/ccenter/students/pdf/LearnContract.pdf>. The learning contract must be signed by you, the department contact (currently Professor Simeone), and your community supervisor before you can be registered for the course. Since these contracts are often signed in the week or weeks just before the term starts, this means that **you will most likely not be able to sign up for the internship class during the regular November or March times**. If you feel uncomfortable with only three classes, sign up for an alternate which you can drop as you add the internship class in the fall, spring, or May term.

In PSCI 396, students work on projects that are agreed upon ahead of time and specified in the learning contract. Sometimes projects will change during the semester, but you need to get your supervisor and professor to sign off on some project at the beginning of the term. Projects may be on-going—as ARC sponsored projects frequently are—or negotiated by you before the term. The process component covers any evidence of civic skills that you have amassed during your internship. Examples include action plans, meeting agendas and minutes, survey questionnaires, and any work which documents your progress in attain civic skill. The outcome component is basically the substantive result of your work—it may be a conference that you organized, survey results, a procedures manual, et cetera. Students who elect this option must attend a weekly learning community meeting (always scheduled Thursdays at noon 12:10-12:55).

In PSCI 397, students work as apprentices with community experts. Students often will learn many routine or technical skills pertaining to the field they are learning—whether law, city management, or some other area. In addition to these skills, there must be an academic component to the internship, which the policy paper allows. The policy paper reminds supervisors that they have an obligation to give students time to explore one substantive area, optimally employing the skills they have learned.