

# UNM Fred Harris Congressional Internship Program—Washington, D. C.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**How do I apply to the program?** An application can be obtained from our website, <http://www.unm.edu/~polsci/programs.htm#internships>, listed with the information provided for the UNM Fred Harris Congressional Internship Program. The application deadline for Spring Semester 2010 is Wednesday, October 14, 2009. Completed applications must be delivered to Joann Buehler, Department of Political Science, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Social Sciences Building (#78 on the campus map), Room 2061, no later than 5:00p.m. on October 14.

**Is the UNM Program competitive?** We can only accept five students for each semester, and there is a competitive application process guided by strict admissions criteria—undergraduate, minimum 60 earned credit hours and 3.0 GPA. The program is academically and professionally rigorous.

**How much does the semester in Washington, DC Cost?** The housing cost is approximately \$3500 for the entire semester. Tuition fees are the same, as you will be enrolled in classes at UNM. Additional costs for food, travel and entertainment will be different for every person depending on spending habits. *Interns selected for the program will be personally responsible for payment of a refundable \$200 housing security deposit.* Deposits are refunded after interns have vacated student housing.

**Is Financial Aid available for Washington Program?** Yes - If you currently receive financial aid, your financial aid package will be increased by \$1,000 to help defray the higher cost of living in Washington, DC.

**Where would I live?** UNM has contracted with the WISH program in DC to provide housing for its interns. Interns will be required to live in these facilities during their semester in DC. Housing is located near the House and Senate offices and is conveniently located near a Metro station.

**Who would I be living with?** As a UNM student, you will most likely live with other UNM students. However, it is possible, depending on the facility chosen, that you might also live with interns from other schools.

**Do I need a car in Washington, DC?** Transportation in Washington, DC is very convenient and geared towards people without cars. In fact, driving there can be a nightmare! The Metro system (subway) is extremely convenient, and runs from very early in the morning until very late at night. The Metro can take you all around the city and its outlying areas, like Virginia and Maryland. Taxis are in abundance in the city, and are always an option when you do not feel like walking. In addition, the Amtrak is very accessible, as well as different Bus companies like Greyhound, for trips to New York and Philadelphia.

## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

**How many days a week will I be interning?** You will be working 4 days weekly (Monday through Thursday). Classes are conducted onsite on Fridays.

### **How many credits do I get for the semester?**

Students receive a total of 12 units of credit; three credits for your internship (POLS 291 or 491), three credits for independent study with a professor of your choice, and six credits (3 each) for two upper-division political science courses (POLS 311 & PS 496). POLS 291 and 491 are offered by Dr. Ellen Grigsby, POLS 496 is offered by Dr. Michael Rocca, and POLS 311 is offered by Dr. Fred Harris, and includes guest lecturers in DC on Fridays.

*Interns will be responsible for contacting a faculty member in their college to arrange the independent study course.*

**How will the internship benefit me in the future?** The networking opportunities that you will have while working in your internship will be invaluable to you. After living in Washington, DC you will feel like you can live in any big city. After successfully completing the study, research and work, you will feel accomplished and confident that you can succeed in both professional and academic settings.

