FLORIDA ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY



Florida Legislative Internship Program (FFLIP)

OFFERED EVERY SPRING SEMESTER



FFLIP provides an opportunity for students to experience first-hand how public policy is developed and to participate in the legislative process while gaining full-time internship experience and course credit hours.

Interns who are admitted to the program are assigned to a Senator or Representative in the Florida State Legislature. During their semester-long experience, students will learn about the role and responsibilities of elected officials and the broader environment in which they work.

Students selected for the internship will move to Tallahassee for the 60-day Legislative Session and are expected to report to their assigned legislator's office in the State Capitol. Outside of the 60-day Legislative Session, students report to their legislator's district office on a hybrid schedule. The Legislative Session takes place during Spring semester each year. During the Spring 2026 semester, the Legislative Session will take place from January-March.

APPLICATIONS OPEN **August 1, 2025**
APPLICATION DEADLINE **October 15, 2025**

All applications must be submitted through Handshake and must include all required documents by the deadline in order to be accepted.

To learn more about the program and required qualifications, please visit

fau.edu/owl-advocates/flip/

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
Department Partnerships: Division of Student Affairs, Career Center, Office of Government Relations, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, Department of Political Science

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WHAT LEGISLATORS SAY ABOUT FFLIP



"As a recipient of one of FAU's outstanding interns in my legislative office, I can attest to the tremendous impact of this program on our office and our interns. What an incredible opportunity to build policy making understanding in students and mentor the next generation of leaders while learning ourselves about issues of importance to them.

– FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE KELLY SKIDMORE (D-92)



"The FFLIP program gives students the opportunity to learn about the lawmaking process up close and offers students with vital knowledge that is second to none. Regardless of major or career track, the program provides all students with vital skills that are necessary in careers ranging from politics to business and to anything in between.

– FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOBY OVERDORF (R-85)



"Florida Atlantic is an excellent institution, one that I have always been proud to support and advocate for. Its Legislative Intern Program has given me multiple wonderful interns for my Tallahassee office in the Florida Capitol, and I look forward to seeing the program continue to grow as I support it in the years to come.

– FLORIDA STATE SENATOR TINA POLSKY (D-30)

Scan here to learn more about previous FFLIP interns.

SPRING 2026

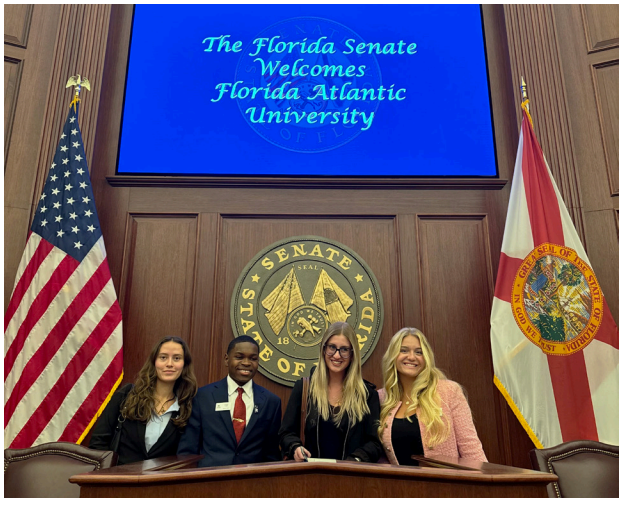
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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- All majors are welcome to apply.
- Application completed and submitted in Handshake with all supporting documents by the deadline of October 15, 2025.
- Two reference rating forms must be completed and one must be from a faculty member.
- Resume uploaded in Handshake in PDF format.
- Current unofficial transcript uploaded in Handshake.
- Academic Completion Form signed by Academic Advisor and uploaded to Handshake.
- Personal Statement in PDF form that addresses the following questions in 500 words or less:
    - *Why would you like to serve as a Legislative Intern?*
    - *What related internship or professional experience do you have?*
    - *How will interning in the Florida State Legislature help to advance your career goals?*
    - *What qualities do you possess that make you capable of working in a high stress and ever-changing environment?*
- Copy of Photo ID must be submitted with application.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Enrollment as a full-time undergraduate student at Florida Atlantic University.
- Minimum required cumulative GPA is 3.25.
- Completion of 30 credit hours required at the time of application (60 credit hours preferred).
- One previous internship experience, or the equivalent such as employment or volunteering.
- Interest in, or knowledge of, the legislative process.
- Ability to operate a personal computer with proficiency in Microsoft Office.
- Ability to be detail oriented without losing sight of the big picture.
- Strong interpersonal skills and effective communicator orally and in writing.
- Professional and collegial manner with a wide range of individuals.
- Ability to accomplish goals independently in fast paced and highly visible environment.
- Ability to travel to and from Tallahassee, Florida.



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COMPENSATION

Accommodations:
FFLIP will provide interns with furnished housing, including the payment of rent and utilities, for their Tallahassee-based housing during the 60-day Legislative Session. Selected students are responsible for their local housing during the remainder of the Spring semester.

Stipend:
FFLIP Interns are eligible to receive a $3,000 living stipend.

Transportation:
FFLIP will cover the transportation costs for interns to travel to Tallahassee for move-in day and to travel back home at the end of the Legislative Session on move-out day. Any transportation outside of move-in and move-out days is the responsibility of the FFLIP intern.

COURSE CREDITS

FFLIP interns agree to a cohort model curriculum and agree to register for the following courses during the Spring 2026 semester:

- IDS 3949 Professional Internship
- POS 4905 Legislative Research Project
- POS 4931 Florida Government
- POS 4941 Legislative Internship

FFLIP interns are not permitted to take any additional courses or make substitutions for the above courses. Students applying for this program should plan their course schedules accordingly and discuss any scheduling concerns with their academic advisor.

SELECTION PROCESS

A panel consisting of members representing various units at Florida Atlantic University review and score submitted applications. Semi-finalists are invited to an in-person interview. Finalists are notified after the interview process has concluded and are paired with a Legislator of the panel's choosing shortly after acceptance into the program. FFLIP interns will not have the option of selecting their Legislator placement but are able to share their preferences after admission to the program.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete the internship will:

- Develop a deeper understanding of the state legislative process.
- Read, understand and interpret policy and constituent related research.
- Understand the daily activities and functions of a state legislative office.
- Develop professional competencies in life skills, such as time management, task prioritization and organizational networking.
- Work in the State Capitol building during the 60-day Legislative Session and witness firsthand how legislation is passed in Tallahassee.
- Develop written and oral communication skills while interacting with legislators, professional staff, constituents and lobbyists.
- Gain knowledge of how state government and the legislative process works, while making lifelong career contacts and friendships.

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WHAT TO EXPECT

Legislative interns function as support staff to legislators and their staff and perform a wide range of tasks, such as researching policy issues, analyzing bills, tracking legislation, attending meetings, responding to constituent letters, answering phones and more. During the semester, legislative interns are also encouraged to participate in supplemental learning and networking experiences outside of their legislator's office.

Legislative interns represent Florida Atlantic University and the highest conduct, professionalism and maturity is always expected.

Interns must adapt to a rigorous work schedule and develop an effective working relationship with legislators and their staff.

Interns will have the opportunity to share the legislative experience with interns from other Florida universities in the State University System.

Interns are required to attend an orientation prior to the start of the internship as a mandatory component of the program.

Interns will have on-site contact and mentorship in Tallahassee, as well as support from on-campus services such as the Career Center and Student Affairs. Interns will also work with a faculty administrator to ensure successful course completion and continued academic success throughout the semester.

Interns must register for a prescribed 12-credit course schedule that will be taken alongside the other admitted legislative interns in a cohort model. Selected interns will not be able to take additional courses outside of the prescribed 12 credits.

WORKING HOURS

Interns are expected to follow the schedule of their assigned Legislator's office; therefore, selected interns will not follow the University's spring break schedule.

During the 60-day Legislative Session from January-March, interns will report to their legislator's Capitol office in Tallahassee. For the remainder of the Spring Semester after the end of the Legislative Session, interns are expected to follow a hybrid model of remote work and in-person work in their legislator's district or local office.

A minimum of 270 working hours, including transit to and from the work site location, within the Spring academic semester is required to receive full academic credit for the internship. All hours must be logged and submitted to the Office of Government Relations. Working hours are in addition to the hours spent on academic assignments required for successful completion of course credits.

