Legislature

**Overview:** The California Legislature has 120 members – 40 in the state Senate and 80 in the Assembly. It also maintains 53 “standing committees” that deal with a wide range of policy issues (see list below). Not every senator or Assembly member is able to host an intern. Students interning with the Legislature are placed in the Capitol offices of individual senators or Assembly members, or with a legislative committee. Most placements, however, are with individual members. Depending on the issue, committee offices are small, short on desk space and without extra computers to accommodate interns. Students interested in a particular issue area – education, health care, environment, public safety, etc. – intern with legislators who serve on relevant committees; if possible, with the chair of that committee. A few internships may be available in the district offices of Sacramento-area legislators.

**Senate Standing Committees (23):**
- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Banking & Financial Institutions
- Budget & Fiscal Review
- Business, Professions & Economic Development
- Education
- Elections & Constitutional Amendments
- Energy, Utilities & Communications
- Environmental Quality
- Governance & Finance
- Governmental Organization
- Health
- Human Services
- Insurance
- Judiciary
- Labor & Industrial Relations
- Legislative Ethics
- Natural Resources & Water
- Public Employment & Retirement
- Public Safety
- Rules
- Transportation & Housing
- Veterans Affairs

**Assembly Standing Committees (30):**
- Accountability & Administrative Review
- Aging & Long-Term Care
- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, Internet
- Banking & Finance
- Budget
- Business, Professions & Consumer Protection
- Education
- Elections & Redistricting
- Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials
- Governmental Organization
- Health
- Higher Education
- Housing & Community Development
- Human Services
- Insurance
- Jobs, Economic Development & the Economy
- Judiciary
- Labor & Employment
- Local Government
- Natural Resources
- Public Employees, Retirement & Social Security
- Public Safety
- Revenue & Taxation
- Rules
- Transportation
- Utilities & Commerce
- Veterans Affairs
- Water, Parks & Wildlife
**Politics:** Prior to placement, a student may be asked to self-describe his or her politics to ensure that he/she is placed with a politically compatible legislator. For instance, a conservative Republican should avoid an internship in the office of a liberal Democrat.

**What to expect:** In this venue, students are exposed both to the process and politics of policymaking. They may be asked to perform routine office tasks, such as answering phones, opening mail and sorting emails. UCCS internship guidelines ask that this kind of non-substantive routine be kept to a minimum; no more than 25 percent of a student’s time should be spent on “grunt work.” More substantive work may include issue-based research, data and report analysis, event planning and coordination, media relations, and constituent services. Students should expect to attend staff and other meetings even if not an active participant in the meeting – the “fly on the wall” participant.