



Name: **Harrison Gill**

Home Campus: **UC San Diego**

Major: **International Studies - Political Science**

Program: **Policy**

UCCS Internship Location:
**California Community Colleges Chancellor's
Office, Division of Academic Affairs**

Why did you decide to participate in the UC Center Sacramento program?

At the beginning of my third year at UCSD, after spending two years entirely unsure what type of career I want to focus on after graduating, I decided to get involved in education. I had spent three quarters that year tutoring in three different secondary school environments, but a lot of how and why the system worked the way it did remained a mystery. UC Center Sacramento provided an opportunity to look beyond the practice of education in the classroom or school environment and look at it from a more top-down, policy approach. Ultimately, when offered the chance to intern at the Chancellor's Office working on projects relating to student success, I jumped at the opportunity and am glad I did.

How has your internship affected your after-college plans and beyond?

While I still remain uncertain about my path for a number of different reasons, I feel that I am more likely to pursue a career and further study related to education. In particular, the internship opened my eyes up to the world of postsecondary education, something I had not yet been exposed to in anyway other than a student attending a university.

What was a typical day for you in your internship?

My typical day at the office was primarily spent working on the project. During my time at the center, I was responsible for working on two major projects, the first relating to basic skills instruction and the latter relating to faculty development. My job as an intern was to research these areas and really delve into the subjects from a policy perspective to get a sense of what has worked in the past and what hadn't worked. This was a new field for me, but the staff at the Chancellor's Office were very helpful and accessible when needed. By providing background information on these two areas, I played an instrumental role in shaping two conferences for practitioners within the community college system and hopefully some direct benefits will be coming out of the work very soon, if they haven't already occurred. I also had the opportunity to attend various meetings within the Chancellor's Office and with staff from the various community colleges and the Governor's Office relating to the future of Californian higher education. It was neat to witness this policy innovation first hand.

Do you have any advice regarding housing or transportation? Did you live at the EastSide Lofts? If yes, how did that work out? How did you commute to and from your internship?

Living at Eastside Lofts was a great experience. Most importantly, it lets you meet and really bond with some of your classmates from throughout the UC system attending the UC Sacramento Center. I commuted by car, which the city makes very easy through its discount parking program, however taking the Regional Transit light rail would have been just as easy considering that there were stops by the lofts, my internship site, and the center.

What would you say to a student who's thinking about applying to the UCCS?

Don't spend any more time thinking if you are seriously considering it. Apply. Do think seriously about the program however though, as you will have significant responsibilities for the duration of the program and your supervisors will expect quite a bit out of you. It's a highly rewarding experience however.

Anything you'd like to add?

Studying in Sacramento provides a unique opportunity to learn about the state, both formally and informally. Don't pass up the opportunity to get a sense of your bearings and explore the sights, history, and culture of the Sacramento area.