



## Scholarship Intern Learning Objectives Requirements

### Why should you set up Learning Objectives?

How much you get out of your assignment will partially depend on what your objectives are for the assignment. These objectives should be developed with your on-site supervisor and your faculty so that both you and they are clear as to what you want to accomplish. Initially, setting learning objectives provides a means for evaluation of the experience. By comparing what you wanted to learn with what you did learn, it allows all parties involved to better evaluate the experience. Not attaining your initial objectives is not necessarily bad, since some assignments provide opportunities to explore new, unexpected dimensions. The primary purpose in setting them is to make sure that the Scholarship Intern and the on-site supervisor understand what the student wants to get out of the experiences.

### How do you set up Learning Objectives?

Internship learning objectives should be developed along four dimensions. The following provides you some guidance and examples of the types of objectives you may want to consider.

**1. Skill development:** Learning and improving skills such as writing, verbal communication, research, organizational, computer, interpersonal, teamwork, presentation, and leadership is important. It is the development of these skills that often represents the major benefits of an assignment.

*Example: I would like to improve my communication skills, especially when dealing with people I do not know. Also, I would like to improve my formal writing skills; especially regarding reports to superiors. Finally, I would like to improve my research skills to be more effective and efficient in obtaining relevant information.*

**2. Broader knowledge:** Understanding how government works, as well as how public policy is developed. In addition, this would include knowledge added to existing classroom knowledge, such as the application of theory to practice.

*Example: I plan to explore how economic, social, and political forces impact the development of public policy through daily interaction with constituents and legislative staff. I hope to learn how public policy issues evolve into legal requirements.*

**3. Career Awareness:** Scholarship Intern assignments often provide the opportunity to take a peek at what working for the elected office would be like. Objectives could include learning about career opportunities, as well as the qualities and training required to obtain those positions.

*Example: I want to know what it is like to work in a professional environment, since all of my experience so far has been in small offices. Finally, I would like to find out if government service is the right way to go for me- or whether I would consider the private or non-profit sectors.*

**4. Personal Development:** One of the major benefits of a Scholarship Intern assignment is how it helps you to develop self-confidence, assertiveness, and basic work habits.

*Example: I am not very confident in my ability to function in an organization. I have done pretty well in classes, but am worried that I will not be able to translate this into a professional workplace. A major objective I have for this internship is to gain confidence in myself and that I have something to offer. In addition, I would like to improve my ability to talk with others on a professional level. I have not had much experience in this and hope the internship will give me an opportunity to talk with a variety of professionals.*

