

URBAN SEMESTER PROGRAM



LEARN + INTERN ... *In the Heart of the City*

Open to ALL UConn Students and ALL Majors

**AN INTERNSHIP THAT MAKES
A DIFFERENCE TO YOU
& THE COMMUNITY**

**WHILE EARNING 15 CREDITS
TOWARD YOUR DEGREE**

POSSIBLE INTERNSHIPS IN:

- Advocacy and Legal Research
- Community Organizing
- Criminal Justice
- Economic Development
- Education
- Environmental Policy
- Historic Preservation
- Immigration Rights
- Poverty & Economic Justice
- Public Health
- Social Work
- State & Local Government
- Urban Planning
- Urban Policy
- Youth Development
- Women's Empowerment

& more...

HARTFORD

The **URBAN SEMESTER PROGRAM** offers students a tremendous opportunity for service learning and public service. We live in an urban world and for over 50 years, the Urban Semester Program has allowed students from all across UConn to put what they study to work addressing real-world urban issues and challenges. For many, the program is a life-transformative experience that helps shape their career plans while, at the same time, contributing to the Hartford community.

Students intern in human service agencies, government offices and community and non-profit organizations.

URBAN SEMESTER students work on issues facing the city, from education, poverty, homelessness, youth issues and crime to the challenges of a changing economy.

Through two weekly seminars, they study and explore the issues in greater depth, taking part in thought-provoking discussions with community leaders and field trips throughout the city.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

urbansemester.uconn.edu

or contact the Urban Semester Director at

phil.birge-liberman@uconn.edu



UConn Urban Semester - <http://urbansemester.uconn.edu>

Phil Birge-Liberman, Director (phil.birge-liberman@uconn.edu)

FAQs

Urban Semester is a 15-credit program. Students will earn 9 credits of internship and earn the remaining 6 credits through two seminars. *With departmental permission, students may elect to count 3 credits toward HDFS 3080, POLS 3991, PSYC 3880, SOCI 3990/3991 or other department internship credit.*

Participants are not required to live in Hartford as in previous years. They can if they wish, but it's not required.

Urban Semester can help participants in the ways that an internship usually does - by providing some real-world experiences. However, students in Urban Semester earn 9 credits of internship and work 27.5 hours/week compared to the 6-9 hours/week associated with a 3-credit internship. They will get to see many more aspects of the job and be heavily involved in a lot more projects. Students working on various projects have provided testimony at hearings of the General Assembly considering bills related to their project. Students have sometimes published op-ed pieces advocating for particular policies related to the project they worked on.

All students regardless of major need to make sure their resume stands out from the rest. An internship can help do that.

Participants sometimes find a career path they hadn't considered. Sometimes they intern working on an issue they hadn't considered and because of it, they end up working in that field, or going to grad school to focus on that field. Less frequently, but often just as important, sometimes students think they want to go into a field, but after interning in that field, realize they don't like it. In these cases, it's great that the students have been able to have a low-stakes opportunity to try out this field so they can shift their career plans.

Participants in Urban Semester will begin to develop a professional network. When on the job market later, they can use their supervisor as a reference that can speak to their abilities in the kind of professional setting to aspire to work in. This is much different from their boss at the supermarket or fast food joint saying they're a good worker. It's almost better than just having professors listed as references.

Some Urban Semester students get hired to stay on after the internship is over. Even those who don't get hired at the place they interned often get hired at a similar agency. Often, the reason that others don't get hired is they still have a couple more semesters of school. The Social Security Administration, a site where students frequently intern, has received approval to hire successful interns. The site supervisor has been at SSA for 30+ years and noted that this is only the second time she's seen jobs opened this way.