

PPIC'S 2019 SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

PPIC's Summer Intern Program provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students interested in a public policy career to work in a policy research environment. Intern projects are proposed by PPIC researchers and designed around a specific set of tasks and deliverables that can be accomplished within the term of the internship.

The application deadline for the four 2019 projects was February 8, 2019.

We expect to make our selection decisions for these projects by late March. No phone calls, please.

The Research Environment

Interns are offered the opportunity to participate in the collegial atmosphere of PPIC through daily interaction with all aspects of the institution. They are invited to join the research staff in their regular meetings and to attend PPIC's outside events, including the institute's public affairs programs and research briefings. PPIC offers access to the Institute of Governmental Sciences library at the University of California, Berkeley, allowing interns to work with many important databases, journals, and statistical datasets. The intern program also includes a Sacramento orientation, with a tour of the state capitol and a discussion of California state policy by PPIC's government affairs staff.

Each intern's project will include an initial meeting with research staff, evaluation and feedback at the beginning, midpoint and end of the project, and a briefing by the intern on the goals, findings, and significance of the project. Interns are encouraged to discuss their work throughout the course of the project, to meet with research staff to discuss careers in research, and to meet with communications staff to learn about outreach and building an audience of policymakers.

Location, Compensation, and Time on Project

These summer internships are located in PPIC's San Francisco office. Compensation is \$17.50 per hour. These fulltime internships will last up to eleven weeks, ideally starting June 17, 2019.

As an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action employer, PPIC is committed to excellence through diversity. We encourage women and members of minority groups to apply. Pursuant to the San Francisco Fair Chance Ordinance, we will consider for employment qualified applicants with arrest and conviction records. AA / EEO / Veterans / Disabled employer.

PROJECT 1 - Paying for Forest Management

Project Directors: Henry McCann and Jeffrey Mount

The internship would focus on ecosystem services and funding strategies for increasing the pace and scale of forest management in California. The intern would work with the research team as they prepare a research report on the benefits of increasing efforts to improve the health of headwater forests. This internship will be based in PPIC's San Francisco office. Some travel to Sacramento is anticipated.

Responsibilities

The intern will work with a research team on organizing research and workshop notes, performing background research, and synthesizing findings. The intern would perform research on case studies of forest stewardship in the western U.S. This project requires previous experiences making maps with ArcGIS mapping software. This project includes working with large datasets as well as participation in interviews and workshops with relevant stakeholders and decision makers. The intern will also present a summary of this work to PPIC staff at the end of the summer.

Qualifications

The ideal applicant will bring undergraduate or graduate training in a field related to ecology or environmental policy, economics, public policy or related field.

The intern for this project should have:

- Familiarity with California forest management science and policy
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong computer and analytical skills, including ArcGIS
- Statistical programming experience
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team

PROJECT 2 - Sustainable Water Policy in California

Project Directors: Alvar Escriva-Bou and Caitrin Chappelle

This project, involving experts from the PPIC Water Policy Center, will contribute to the ongoing efforts to of the center to connect nonpartisan, objective research to real world water management debates, with the goal of putting California water policy on a sustainable and constructive path. This internship will be based in PPIC's San Francisco office. Some travel to Sacramento is anticipated.

Responsibilities

The intern will work with a research team on gathering and organizing data and information on various topics (such as water use, water finance, and ecosystem management). This project may include working with large datasets, developing graphics, designing and implementing surveys, and participating in interviews and workshops with relevant stakeholders and decision makers. The intern will also present a summary of this work to PPIC staff at the end of the summer.

Qualifications

The ideal applicant will bring undergraduate or graduate training in a field related to ecology or environmental policy, economics, public policy or related field.

The intern for this project should have:

- Familiarity with California water policy
- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Strong quantitative skills, experience working with large datasets
- Statistical programming experience
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team

PROJECT 3 - Placement and Curricular Reforms at California Community Colleges

Project Directors: Marisol Cuellar Mejia, Olga Rodriguez and Hans Johnson

In October 2017, California passed legislation known as Assembly Bill 705 (AB 705). This bill is expected to dramatically change developmental education in California's community colleges (CCC). Set to be implemented by fall 2019, this law requires colleges to maximize the probability that students complete transfer-level coursework in English and math within one year and mandates that colleges use high school records (e.g., coursework, grades, and/or grade point average) as the primary criteria for placement recommendations. To do so, recent AB 705 guidance provided by the Chancellor's Office recommends that all students should have access to transfer-level math and English, and those with the lowest grades could be required to enroll in concurrent support courses—also known as co-requisites—in an effort to increase their likelihood of course success. As a result, AB 705 is expected to lead to wholesale reform across the system, with a sharp decline in developmental education placements and commensurately sharp increases in enrollments in transfer-level courses, some with concurrent support. Recent research by PPIC on early implementers of placement and co-requisite reforms in California's community colleges suggests these strategies hold promise for improving student success.

Responsibilities

To inform PPIC's ongoing research on developmental education reforms, the summer intern on this project will collect and assemble information from community college documents and websites about the changes to placement policies and the concurrent support models being adopted by colleges across the state in response to recent legislative changes and system office recommendations. With guidance from project supervisors, this data will be coded and analyzed to better understand new placement policies, the extent to which colleges are adopting different models of concurrent support, the prevalence of each model, and how students are being placed into these courses. There is a possibility the intern will work closely with the project supervisors to identify and interview colleges to obtain more a deeper understanding of the concurrent support models. Over the course of the summer the intern will develop insights into the ways colleges implementing reforms in response to AB 705. The intern will create periodic summaries of the work for the supervisors and will prepare a presentation summarizing this work for presentation to PPIC staff at the end of the summer.

Qualifications

The intern for this project should have:

- Training in sociology, education, economics, public policy, or a related field
- Strong analytical and organizational skills
- Experience mining qualitative and quantitative data
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work independently as well as seek feedback and direction when appropriate
- Interest in California higher education policy

PROJECT 4 - Understanding factors that contribute to students returning to community colleges to stack credentials

Project Directors: Sarah Bohn and Shannon McConville

Developing effective career pathways that connect students to good jobs and meet the state's workforce needs is a focus of workforce and education agencies. As the primary provider of post-secondary career education in the state, California's community colleges are investing in expanding and improving the training pathways they offer. While some pathways in the community colleges make clear the opportunity to earn successive credentials along a career trajectory, most do not make explicit connections between related credentials in a way that clearly delineates entry and exit points linked to different career options. As a result, re-engaging students at multiple points along a career trajectory is challenging especially because many career education students are older, have jobs, and must balance multiple responsibilities.

Assessing the factors that support a student's return to complete additional training—and in particular, identifying the most opportune time to re-engage students on a training pathway—is an essential component to expanding the opportunities for career pathways and stackable credentials. This project aims to shed light on the role of employers and regional employer-college partnerships in facilitating “on-ramps” for students to successfully stack credentials along a career pathway. This information will be incorporated into a quantitative analysis of student outcomes in order to assess how best to support students advance their careers through additional education.

This internship will be based in PPIC's San Francisco office. Some travel to Sacramento is anticipated.

Responsibilities

The intern will assist the research team in understanding the available data and resources available to assess factors that contribute to student's returning to community college to stack credentials along a career pathway. This will be accomplished primarily through assessment and analysis of data available through the CTE Outcomes Survey, a statewide study to assess employment outcomes of students who have participated in career education programs at California's community colleges. The analysis will be informed by a detailed literature review of the topic and interviews with key personnel as necessary. The intern will prepare written summaries of progress and will meet regularly with the project directors. The intern will also present a summary of this work to PPIC staff (in the San Francisco location) at the end of the summer.

Qualifications

The ideal applicant will bring graduate-level experience in education, economics, public policy, or a related field to this project].

The intern for this project should have:

- Strong organizational skills and ability to work independently
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong computer and analytical skills
- Experience with statistical analysis software (i.e. Stata, SAS, R)