



DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

GVPT Maryland General Assembly Joint Internship Program

The Department of Government and Politics (GVPT) and [Maryland General Assembly](#) (MGA) offer a joint internship program that offers college students the opportunity to provide research and staff assistance to legislators while gaining firsthand experience in Maryland's legislative process. Responsibilities may include writing reports and correspondence, tracking bills, communicating with witnesses, following committee hearings, preparing and reporting testimony, coordinating mailings & newsletters, and responding to constituents' inquiries, among other duties. Students receive a stipend through the MGA and can earn credit through GVPT. The MGA requires an academic sponsor who confirms that the student will earn credit for their internship. Through acceptance to the GVPT/MGA Joint Internship Program, you are securing an academic sponsor for your final MGA application.

Students must enroll in GVPT377 and GVPT376 during the Spring 2027 semester to participate in the GVPT/MGA Joint Internship Program. If you cannot fit these courses into your schedule, you should pursue different options for internship credit.

- **GVPT377 Experiential Learning: Government and Politics Internship Program:** GVPT377 is a weekly academic course with both online and in-person components. Students must be able to attend in-person class dates to participate in the program. For MGA Internships, this course cannot count for IR credit.
 - 3-credit academic course that *may* be used towards the GVPT major requirements per GVPT's '[Experiential Learning Credits](#)' policy.
 - The course will meet in-person three times throughout the semester from 6:30-9:15pm. There are no exceptions or alternatives for these dates and times. Timely attendance of the full class time is mandatory for participation in the program, except for any excused absences as outlined by the [UMD excused absence policy](#).
- **GVPT376 Experiential Learning:** There are no class meetings for GVPT376. You are earning credit for the hours spent working at your internship. Your internship supervisor will complete an evaluation of your performance.
 - 3-credit elective course graded on a satisfactory/fail basis.
 - *If you receive an 'F' for a course that is being taken on the S/F grading method, the 'F' will be calculated into your GPA. However, 'S' grades will not be included in your GPA.*
 - GVPT376 does NOT count towards GVPT major requirements.
 - The course does not have any meeting times.
 - GVPT376 is not listed on the Schedule of Classes. You will receive registration information upon acceptance to the program.

Participation in this program does not approve students to take on a credit overload. The intention would be for a student to adjust their schedule so that they are still completing a normal credit load (approximately 15 credits) including their MGA internship. We strongly recommend against a full time course load in addition to your internship courses (GVPT377 and GVPT376). If you need assistance adjusting your schedule, please contact GVPT Advising (gvptadvising@umd.edu). If you would like to request a credit overload (more than 20 credits) you will need to contact BSOS Advising (bsosadvising@umd.edu). Credit overload will only be considered for students who need more than 20 credits to graduate in a timely manner with their degree or due to another special circumstance that makes the overload academically necessary. As a reminder, all students can add up to 17 credits before the first day of classes and up to 20 during the schedule adjustment period.

You must complete your internship to earn credit for GVPT377 and GVPT376.

If you are a GVPT major who would like to receive GVPT major credit for an internship with the MGA, you must apply through GVPT prior to applying directly with the MGA. This is the ONE way to earn GVPT credit. The MGA requires students to be earning credit in order to intern with them. The application outlined here is for admission to our credit-bearing program and for GVPT sponsorship on your MGA application.

Requirements

- Current GVPT major.
- Minimum 3.0 GPA.
- Minimum 60 credit hours (by the end of Fall 2026).
 - The MGA requires students to have graduated high school in 2025 or earlier and be at least 18 years old.
- Proof of competency in college composition.
- Must not have previously completed the GVPT Internship Program.
- Priority is given to students who still need to satisfy a GVPT Course of Choice and who may use GVPT377 to do so.
 - **If you do not need the GVPT Course of Choice, you are highly encouraged to seek out alternate programs to internship with the MGA and earn elective credit.** One way to earn credit is through a BSOS Program. Please contact Liza Lebrun (llebrun@umd.edu) for additional information.

Admission to the program is competitive and meeting eligibility requirements does not guarantee admission. If you do not meet any of the eligibility requirements but are interested in GVPT/MGA Joint Internship Program, please contact GVPT Advising (gvptadvising@umd.edu).

Benefits

- Receive 6 course credits, 3 of which may count towards GVPT requirements.
- Earn a stipend based on hours worked per week (exact stipend amounts can be viewed on the [MGA website in the 'Program Information' section](#)).
- Work on current legislative issues that impact Maryland residents.
- Network with legislators and other students interning at the MGA.
- Gain firsthand experience in the legislative process.

Time Commitment

Internships are held in person during the legislative session at the State House in Annapolis from January 11, 2027 through April 16, 2027 (14 weeks). Legislative Interns are required to attend a webinar prior to the start of the internship (dates and times will be provided upon selection) and a full day in person orientation in Annapolis on **Tuesday January 12, 2027**.

Legislative Interns work in a legislator's office, committee, caucus, or delegation, and attend required programming on either Wednesday or Thursday. **Students will set their specific internship hours with their supervisor but are expected to work two days per week (16 hours) at minimum.** Interns are required to commit to a weekly work schedule agreed upon at the start of their internship with **no spring break or holidays**. Should you need to take time off that you are aware of, you will need to communicate that to your internship supervisor (for example, if you need time off for Passover or Eid).

Application Materials

- Completed GVPT/MGA application with required attachments [**Note: You should submit to us the same materials which you will submit directly to the MGA on their application**]:
 - A brief introduction essay that describes yourself, your interests in State government, and your objectives for an internship with the Maryland General Assembly [*approximately 200 words or 2 to 4 paragraphs*].

- One-page resume that should include your education, any academic honors, previous work experience and internships, and if you speak a second language.
- A current unofficial transcript. You may download this through Testudo.
- A short writing sample, less than 2 pages, that illustrates your research, analysis, and critical thinking skills. An example could be an excerpt from a paper you've written for class.

Please carefully review your application materials before submitting them to GVPT. If application materials do not meet the standard of college-level work, they will be returned to you for edits as time and space allow. **We will not approve you for GVPT sponsorship on the MGA application if your application is incomplete, if it is significantly over the word limit, if there are grammatical errors, or if it generally does not meet high professional standards.** We encourage you to use career resources offered through the University Career Center and Career Advising at the BSOS Feller Center while preparing your application materials.

Application Deadline & Process

The GVPT application deadline is **5 PM on Friday October 9, 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.** Keep in mind that while we have an internal deadline for our program, applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. If our program fills prior to our deadline, we will review applications for spots on our waitlist. If accepted, you will be given instructions for how to complete the **academic sponsor** section on the MGA application.

The MGA Intern Coordinator arranges interviews with legislators, committees, or caucuses in order to secure placements. **Please also keep in mind that the MGA's final application deadline is Thursday October 15, 2026.** This means that you must submit all of your materials, including academic sponsor information given to you by us, by October 15, 2026. We recommend applying to our program as soon as possible so you have ample time to complete the MGA's application.

Note: You will not receive your placement before spring registration. If you have received an acceptance email from GVPT, plan on registering for the internship courses, but please note that an acceptance from GVPT does not guarantee placement with the MGA. **If you do not receive a placement, you will need to drop GVPT377 and GVPT376.** Should you secure an alternate internship, you can apply for GVPT credit through the GVPT Internship Program. To learn more about this, please contact GVPT Advising (gvptadvising@umd.edu).

Steps:

- 1) Review your eligibility for the GVPT MGA internship program. If you are eligible, prepare your application materials and submit them to Shayna Shor [sshor@umd.edu] by 5pm on October 9, 2026.
- 2) GVPT will review your application materials. We will **not accept** application materials that do not adhere to the MGA program requirements. If you do not adhere to these requirements and do not have time to edit and resubmit your application prior to October 9, you may forfeit your opportunity to be in our program.
- 3) If you are admitted to the GVPT MGA internship program, you will be given instructions for submitting your application directly to the MGA. You must submit your application to the MGA by October 15, 2026.
- 4) You will then follow the MGA's process for securing specific legislative office placement. It is your responsibility to successfully move through their process to secure a position. If you do not secure a position, you will not be able to remain in the GVPT MGA internship program.
- 5) Notify GVPT when you officially secure placement so we may confirm your enrollment in our program. You will need to share which delegate or office you are working with and your supervisor's name and email address.

Application Instructions

Submit the GVPT MGA Joint Internship Program Applicant Intake Form on the next page and the materials listed below to Shayna Shor via email (sshor@umd.edu) using subject line: GVPT MGA Application – YOUR FIRST & LAST NAME. The application is due by 5pm on Friday October 9, 2026.

Application will not be processed without receipt of the following supplemental documents:

1. ESSAY

Describe yourself, including your abilities, experiences, and interests in State government, along with your objectives for an internship with the Maryland General Assembly (approximately 200 words or 2 to 4 paragraphs).

2. RESUME, which should include, but is not limited to:

- a) Education
- b) Academic honors
- c) Extracurricular activities
- d) Work experience
- e) Interests
- f) Second language

3. TRANSCRIPT (unofficial copy may be downloaded through Testudo)

4. SHORT WRITING SAMPLE (less than 2 pages, that illustrates your research, analysis, and critical thinking skills, from a class or previous professional experience)

If you are admitted to our program for credit, we will notify you and provide you with instructions for completing the academic sponsor section on the MGA application:

<https://dls.maryland.gov/careers/legislative-intern-program/>

If you are not admitted to our program for credit, you will not receive sponsorship from GVPT and will need to explore other options for earning credit and sponsorship from units outside of our department. Students who are not accepted to a specific program but list an academic sponsor in GVPT for the final MGA application will have their application denied and be unable to resubmit for this application cycle.



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GVPT MGA Joint Internship Program Applicant Intake Form

Name: _____

UID: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please check the appropriate box for the following questions:

1) I will have at least 60 cumulative credits at the end of this semester ☐ Yes ☐ No

2) This will be my first time taking GVPT377 and GVPT376 ☐ Yes ☐ No

3) I have not exceeded 6 GVPT experiential learning credits ☐ Yes ☐ No

Note: see our experiential learning policy [here](#) for a full list of what counts towards experiential learning in GVPT

4) I still need to complete at least 1 upper-level GVPT course of choice ☐ Yes ☐ No

5) I am able to commit to the synchronous meeting sessions for GVPT377 ☐ Yes ☐ No

Note: this means you do not have any work or class commitments, nor will you schedule any on Wednesdays from 6:30-9:15pm for Spring 2027. Once the final class dates are confirmed, you will be notified.

6) I understand I cannot earn credit for one internship through multiple programs ☐ Yes ☐ No

Note: This means you may not register for multiple credit-bearing programs to cover the same internship

7) I understand that admission to the GVPT MGA program and subsequent GVPT sponsorship does not guarantee placement with the MGA. I will create a backup plan in the event I do not earn placement and understand I will not be able to remain enrolled in the GVPT MGA internship program ☐ Yes ☐ No

8) I am submitting this application with all required supporting documents ☐ Yes ☐ No

By signing below, I:

- affirm that the information enclosed on my application materials is true,
- am not granted a credit overload for Spring 2027 based on admittance to this program and that credit overloads are only considered for students who need more than 20 credits to graduate in a timely manner,
- confirm my understanding of the requirements for the GVPT MGA internship program, have read this application in its entirety, and have no questions about the contents,
- and understand that I may not submit the MGA application with GVPT sponsorship prior to gaining admission to the GVPT MGA internship program.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please submit all application materials to Shayna Shor through email at sshor@umd.edu by 5pm on Friday October 9, 2026.