

# Semester in Practice Information

**Who is eligible?** 3<sup>rd</sup> year students who are in their final spring semester of law school.

**Credits allowed?** - In addition to the 6 standard externship credits allowed, Students participating in the Semester in Practice (SIP) program are allocated up to 6 additional externship credits. Unused regular externship credits may be added to the 6 SIP externship credits up to 10 total credits for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year spring. For instance, if 3 credits are earned in semesters prior to 3<sup>rd</sup> year spring the student has 3 regular credits left. These 3 credits may be added to the 6 SIP credits for a total of 9 externship credits.

**Types of Externships?** Externs may work for local, state and federal government agencies, public interest organizations and corporations. Students may not earn SIP credit working in Gainesville. Placements with private law firms and trial courts do not qualify for externship credit. However, students may extern with State and Federal Appellate Judges and Courts.

**CLI?** If a student has already qualified as a CLI, that student may work as a CLI during SIP. Anyone planning to work as a CLI should contact the Clinics to ensure that he or she has been certified.

**New Externship sites?** Students may create new externships at qualifying agencies with prior approval. Students must submit application for approval of new externship form prior to October 2, 2017. Approval is not guaranteed. Please see Julie Barnes for more information.

**Payment?** Externs may not be paid. With prior approval from the Director of Externs, students may accept limited reimbursements, stipends, or fellowships.

**How to find positions** – Many SIP positions are already posted in Symplicity. Positions are added until early to mid-fall as they become available. It is best to begin checking in summer as many positions have early deadlines, including Florida U.S. Attorneys and various governmental positions. Not all pre-approved locations are posted in Symplicity.

**Required Course?** In addition to the externship credits, SIP students must take a 2 credit on-line Bridge to Practice Course.

**Adding additional credits?** Ways to obtain additional credits during the spring semester include, registering for on-line classes through UF Law or the UF Graduate School; taking classes as a visiting student at a law school near the externship; or arranging for an independent study with a faculty member who is willing to help. Students who need to complete their Advanced Writing Requirement should make arrangements for an independent research. Many students add Law Review or other credits during their 3<sup>rd</sup> year spring. The academic component of SIP externships is covered in the Bridge to Practice course however, students must submit regular journal entries to their assigned faculty supervisor.

## **Spring Semester in Practice Program hours requirements (Based on 15 weeks)**

6 credits = 22 hours/week = 330 total hours

7 credits = 25.67 hours/week = 385 total hours

8 credits = 29.33 hours/week = 440 total hours

9 credits = 33 hours/week = 495 total hours

10 credits = 36.67 hours/week = 550 total hours

Students planning to participate in SIP must confirm degree and credit requirements with the Student Affairs Office. Unless a student receives prior approval for fewer externship credits, SIP students take a minimum of 6 externship credits and a maximum of 10 SIP credits. This total does not include the mandatory Bridge to Practice course which is an additional 2 credits.