This is a unique opportunity for our students, one we cannot offer in Carbondale. The reception we have received from government lawyers working in Springfield has been outstanding, and their eagerness to work with us will result in a great experience for our students.

~ Professor Tom Britton

For more information:

Professor Thomas Britton
Room 215
tbritton@siu.edu
618.453.8980
The Academic Program

Students will reside in the Springfield, Illinois area and may enroll in three courses:

Externship in State and Local Government
(Up to 9 credits)

Students will work under the supervision of a licensed Illinois attorney four days per week (Monday through Thursday). Students will be paired with an externship site based on their interest and experience and on the entity’s need and availability.

- The Opinions Division of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office
- The Public Information Division of the Illinois Attorney General’s Office
- Legal Counsel for the Illinois Speaker of the House
- Legal Counsel for the Minority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives.
- Legal Counsel for the Illinois Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR)
- Legal Counsel for the Illinois Senate President
- Legal Counsel for the Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate
- The Illinois Legislative Reference Bureau
- The Illinois Department of Aging
- The Illinois Municipal League
- Legal Counsel for the Illinois Lieutenant Governor
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Student Requirements

Orientation. Attend two-day orientation at the beginning, or just before the beginning, of the semester.

Journaling. Students are required to keep a daily journal of their activities. The journal will be summarized weekly and submitted to Professor Britton.

Round-Table. A student round-table discussion will take place bi-weekly during the semester with Professor Britton.

Summary. A written student summary of the externship will be submitted to Professor Britton.

Extern supervisors will submit evaluations of student to the student externs and to Professor Britton.

State and Local Government Law
(3 credits)

This course will focus on:

- Basic issues of federalism and federal, state, local government interaction.
- Exercise of authority by the Legislative and Executive Branches of State Government.
- Basic state and local government law.
  - Delegation of authority to units of local government
  - The Municipal Code
  - Labor relations and personnel
  - Taxing authority and limitations
  - Government in the sunshine
  - Several class sessions will focus on problem solving in the local government context

Course format:

- The course will meet weekly for two fifty minute sessions. Podcasts which introduce basic concepts will be viewable for the remaining time requirement.
- The class will be conducted live at the law school in Carbondale and SIP students will join us via remote communication.
- A regular midterm, final examination and a paper will determine student grades.

The SIU School of Law’s Law & Government Semester in Practice Program offers second- and third-year law students the opportunity to learn about State and Local Government while living and working in the Illinois capitol.

Residence in Springfield, IL, allows students to work in externship placements under the supervision of government or quasi-government lawyers, while still earning a full semester (12-15 credit hours) of academic credit.

Springfield is approximately three hours north of the main law school campus in Carbondale.