

University of Kansas School of Law Sixth Semester in Washington, DC Program

INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in this program! This document should answer most of your questions. Please don't hesitate to contact me, Prof. Jennifer Schmidt, at Schmidtj@ku.edu or stop by my office, room 315E (up the back stairs), if you have further questions.

What is the Sixth Semester in Washington, DC Program?

This program is a 15-credit hour semester program comprised of a field placement in our nation's capital, classes taught by KU law school faculty, and networking and learning opportunities with KU Law School alumni and other prominent lawyers. It is available to 3L students, and runs from January through the end of April. Students work 382.5 hours for nine hours of field placement credit. Students also take three law classes, worth two-credit-hours each. Students submit journals weekly and a reflection paper at the end of the semester.

Why would you want to participate in the Sixth Semester in Washington, DC Program?

It is important that you answer this question, generally if not specifically, so that it can be a worthwhile experience. Done correctly, this program can give an early start to your career, experience in a difficult-to-enter field, the chance to try a type of legal practice before you commit to it, and help you obtain an excellent legal work reference. The Sixth Semester in DC Program can give you a leg up.

Some examples of reasons to be part of KU Law School's Sixth Semester in Washington, DC Program:

- 1) You want to pursue a career as an elected official, lobbyist, Congressional or legislative staff, presidential or governor's staff.
- 2) You want to work as an attorney for the federal or state government or an association.
- 3) You want to work in a non-profit.
- 4) You want to work in partisan politics, journalism, polling, a think tank, or nonpartisan government research.
- 5) You are interested in practicing in an area of law that has more opportunities in Washington, DC than it does in the Midwest.
- 6) You have that one issue that drives you.
- 7) You want to make a difference in the world, but are struggling to figure out how to do it.
- 8) You would just like to spend a semester in the nation's capital.

There is no wrong reason to participate in this program.

What are the dates of the program?

This program is open only to 3Ls and is offered only in the spring semester. Classes start in early to mid-January. You commit to a semester-long field placement so you are expected to stay in Washington, DC, until close to the end of the semester.

What is the cost of the program?

KU Law School tuition is the same per-hour cost as it is if you attend law school in Lawrence. You must enroll in the 15 hours offered.

Room, board, transportation and entertainment are significantly more expensive in Washington, DC, than they are in Lawrence, Kansas. I suggest budgeting \$750 to \$1000 a month for housing. Your cost for food will vary greatly depending on whether you do all of your own cooking and take your lunch to work every day, or whether you frequently eat at restaurants. Likewise, there are many great entertainment opportunities in Washington, and you can choose to partake of these or not.

Be sure to budget for transportation costs getting to and from work. The Metro (subway) is clean and efficient, but it is not free.

May I get a job in Washington to offset the higher cost-of-living?

Unlikely. You will need to have both KU Law School's permission and your field placement supervisor's permission to work another job, paid or unpaid. This policy is in place to avoid conflicts of interest with your field placement, which needs to be your first priority. In addition, you will be very busy between your field placement and classwork.

What if I find a field placement that will pay me?

KU Law School policy does not allow you to be paid for your field placement work if you are to receive law school credit for the work.

How many hours is the field placement?

You will earn nine hours of law school credit. You need to work 42.5 hours for each hour of credit. This means that you will need to work 382.5 hours.

What are the classes and how many hours of classes will I take?

KU will offer three classes, each for two hours of law school credit. The classes may change, but all will be relevant to DC and will take advantage of the location. For example, many will have guest speakers that would not be available in Lawrence.

In 2017, KU Law School offered Legislative Process; Asylum and Refugee Law; and Global Challenges in Law, Agriculture, Development, and Ecology.

How do I find my field placement?

You are responsible for obtaining your own field placement. That said, Prof. Jennifer Schmidt, Asst. Dean Arturo Thompson, and Director Leah Terranova are all available to help you and *encourage you to seek their input and assistance*.

Is there any other work required to earn the field placement credit?

Yes. You are required to attend either two or three days of programming set up for you by Prof. Schmidt. There may be other mandatory meetings, as well. The goal of this programming is to meet with prominent DC lawyers to network and to learn about substantive law, career options, and navigating DC. Many of the professionals you will meet will be KU Law School alumni. Our group has had meetings with Sen. Bob Dole, Sen. Pat Roberts, National Association of Attorneys General Supreme Court Director and General Counsel Dan Schweitzer, U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce General Counsel Krisann Pearce, Prime Policy Group Managing Director Becky Weber, Justice Department Civil Rights Senior Trial Attorney Jeff Morrison, and more. A special effort is made to also introduce you to recent KU Law School alums working in DC.

In addition, you are required to submit weekly journals, complete occasional assigned readings, and write a final reflection paper.

In the semester before you leave, there will be several mandatory meetings to learn information that should be helpful to you while living and working in Washington.

Where will I live?

Where you live is up to you. Most of our students live in Summit Hills Apartments (www.summithills.net), a large apartment complex in Silver Spring, Maryland. KU's political science department requires its students to live here and has an agreement with the complex to waive the security deposit and offer us deals that include both apartments and furniture rental. I've visited and taken pictures if you would like to see them. The apartments are nice. Prices vary year-to-year. This complex is a ten-minute walk to the Metro (red line), and then about a 50-minute ride to the center of DC. You should contact Dr. Loomis in the KU political science department in September of your 3L year if you are interested in living in Summit Hills.

You may also find your own housing.

Where are the KU Law classes held?

KU Law School has a long-standing partnership with BAU University. BAU is a Turkish University with campuses all over the world. Our classes are taught at the DC campus located in the center of Washington, two blocks from the White House. You may even have BAU students in your classes.

When is the application deadline?

Preference will be given to those applicants who submit an application by April 15. However, applications are welcome at any time. Leave your application in Prof. Schmidt's box in the main office.

What are the prerequisites?

There are deliberately no prerequisites in order for the program to accommodate students with a wide range of goals.

Depending on your interests and goals, you should consider taking Administrative Law, Jurisdiction, the Public Policy Practicum, the Legislative Simulation, Campaign Finance Law, Nonprofit Law. If you have an issue area of interest, such as environmental law or international law, you should take classes in that area.

If you are interested in working in DC after graduation, I recommend that you take the Public Policy Practicum, Jurisdiction, and Administrative Law.

I want to work in Washington, DC, when I graduate. Is this program a good head start?

Absolutely! You will have the opportunity to live and work in Washington to make sure that you like it. You will also have the opportunity to interview for Washington jobs as a local. Assuming your field placement goes well, which it will, you will have a great local reference. Finally, we will spend time talking about how to find a job in Washington and meeting people who can help you.

I don't want to work in Washington after graduation. Should I consider participating in this program?

Absolutely! It will be great work experience and great life experience, both.

I am in line next year to be an editor of both the Law Review and the Law Journal, not to mention SBA president, in addition to being a member of every other club in the law school. Can I continue these activities from Washington?

That is up to the publication/club. It is fine with me as long as you are able to meet your obligations in Washington, DC.

What organizations in Lawrence, Kansas City, and the surrounding area offer programming or opportunities that may be of interest to me?

The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, located on west campus, has a Student Advisory Board, Pizza and Politics lunch programs, and Study Groups open to all KU students, including law students. The Dole Institute also has daytime and evening programming on politics, public policy, government, media, and history. <http://doleinstitute.org>

The Hall Center for Humanities, located on main campus, invites speakers to campus, some of which concern public policy. These events are open to the public.

<http://hallcenter.ku.edu>

There are two presidential libraries within driving distance of KU Law School. The *Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library*, <https://www.eisenhower.archives.gov>, is located in Abilene, Kansas, which is a less than two-hour drive from Lawrence. The *Harry S. Truman Presidential Library*, <https://www.trumanlibrary.org>, is located in Independence, Missouri, which is about an hour's drive from Lawrence.

The International Relations Council of Kansas City, <http://www.irckc.org>, hosts speakers from around the world, holds panel discussions on current international issues, and sponsors networking events for members.

What if I have additional questions?

Please e-mail me, Prof. Jennifer Schmidt, at Schmidtj@ku.edu with either your question or a request to meet with me. I am happy to sit down and talk about this program.

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1L CHECKLIST

This year you're still becoming acclimated to law school. The most important work you will do this year is in your classes so that you understand the basic underpinnings of law.

___ Complete the Interest Form and submit to Prof. Schmidt in person or in her box in the front office.

___ Sign up for Sixth Semester Program e-mails.

___ Google areas of interest to identify possible field placements of interest to you. These placements may be government entities, nonprofits, or other organizations in the DC metropolitan area.

___ E-mail Prof. Schmidt, at schmidtj@ku.edu, to set up an individual meeting.

___ Consider enrolling in the Public Policy Practicum for fall semester your 2L year.

___ Consider enrolling Administrative Law, Jurisdiction and other classes discussed in the prerequisites section of this packet during your 2L year.

___ Follow current events. Read a national newspaper such as the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington, Post, and/or Washington Times daily.

___ Some other publications worth your time: Politico, The Hill, Roll Call.

___ Consider watching Sunday morning current events news.

___ Complete readings suggested by Prof. Schmidt.

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2L CHECKLIST

Fall Semester

This year you lay the groundwork, make important decisions, and apply for the program.

___ Continue to identify and narrow down government entities, nonprofits, or other organizations in DC where you would like to do your field placement.

___ Determine application procedures and deadlines for the government entities, nonprofits, or other organizations in DC where you would like to do your field placement.

___ Begin applying to government entities, nonprofits, or other organizations in DC where you would like to do your field placement.

___ Consider enrolling in the Legislative Simulation for the spring semester. This class is only taught in the spring, so this year will be your only opportunity to take it.

___ Meet with Prof. Schmidt to update her on your progress, ask any questions, and discuss the program.

___ Keep in mind when enrolling in classes that you will need to save 15 hours for your last semester, including 9 experiential learning hours.

___ Follow current events. Read a national newspaper such as the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington, Post, and/or Washington Times daily.

___ Some other publications worth your time: Politico, The Hill, Roll Call.

___ Consider watching Sunday morning current events news.

___ Complete readings suggested by Prof. Schmidt

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2L CHECKLIST

Spring Semester

This is the semester you need to get serious about the program.

___ Continue applying to government entities, nonprofits, or other organizations in DC where you would like to work.

___ Keep in mind when enrolling in classes that you will need to save 15 hours for your last semester, including 9 experiential learning hours.

___ Consider enrolling in the Public Policy Practicum, Jurisdiction, and Administrative Law if you have not already.

___ Apply for admission to the Sixth Semester in Washington, DC, program

___ Apply for Sixth Semester in Washington, DC scholarships.

___ Sign only a first semester lease for your 3L year.

___ Work out your budget for your 3L year.

___ Follow current events. Read a national newspaper such as the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington, Post, and/or Washington Times daily.

___ Some other publications worth your time: Politico, The Hill, Roll Call.

___ Consider watching Sunday morning current events news shows.

___ Complete readings suggested by Prof. Schmidt.

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3L CHECKLIST

This semester you commit to the Sixth Semester Program and make concrete preparations for living and working in Washington, D.C.

Fall Semester

- ___ Acquire your field placement if you have not already done so.
- ___ Confirm your field placement.
- ___ Find housing for the spring semester in the Washington, DC metropolitan area (includes Washington, DC, northern Virginia, and southern Maryland).
- ___ Contact Dr. Loomis in the KU Political Science department in September if you are interested in living in the Silver Spring apartment complex with other KU students.
- ___ Attend mandatory Sixth Semester in Washington, DC orientation sessions.
- ___ Find someone to sublet your Lawrence apartment in the spring if needed.
- ___ Research sightseeing opportunities, entertainment opportunities, etc. in Washington, DC.
- ___ Create a budget for the spring semester.
- ___ Follow current events. Read a national newspaper such as the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington, Post, and/or Washington Times daily.
- ___ Some other publications worth your time: Politico, The Hill, Roll Call.
- ___ Consider watching Sunday morning current events news.
- ___ Complete readings suggested by Prof. Schmidt

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

Please complete form, attach a current resume, and return to Prof. Schmidt. Completing this form constitutes neither your commitment to the Sixth Semester Program nor your acceptance in the Sixth Semester Program. This form just gives us more information about you so that we can better help you.

Name:

Anticipated Graduation Date:

Reasons for interest in this program:

Why did you choose to enroll in law school?

What are your career goals?

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GOALS WORKSHEET

This sheet will help guide your work up to and including your participation in the Sixth Semester Program. It is for your use; you do not need to turn it in.

Why are you considering applying to this program?

What experiences are you looking for in this program?

What substantive law do you hope to learn in this program?

What legal skills do you hope to learn?

How do you hope this experience will inform your career aspirations?

How do you hope this experience will enhance career?

What can you learn from the office environment?

What opportunities outside of the program would you take advantage of during your time in Washington, D.C.?

What do you hope to accomplish by living in DC for four months?

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Application

Name:
Date:
E-mail address:
Cell phone number:
Expected date of graduation:
Hometown:
Undergraduate institution and degree earned:
Additional academic degrees, if any:
Name of your lawyering professor or another professor who is familiar with your work:

Please print out answers to the following questions and staple them, a resume, and an unofficial transcript to this form. Submit the application form and supporting documentation to Prof. Jennifer Schmidt in room 315E or place them in her mailbox in the law school's front office. Please contact Prof. Schmidt at schmidtj@ku.edu with any questions. Thank you for your interest.

1. Why are you interested in participating in the Sixth Semester in Washington, DC program? (approx. 500 words)
2. What would be your ideal field placement and why? (at least 100 words)
3. Do you have prior nonprofit, public policy, or political experience, volunteer or otherwise? If so, please list.
4. What are your long-term career goals, interests, and plans? (at least 100 words)
5. Is there anything else you would like us to know about you, your qualifications, or your interest in this program?