



**National College Credit**  
Recommendation Service

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**Evaluation Report**  
**New York State Assembly**  
**June 23, 2022**

**To:** Kathleen McCarty, Director, New York State Assembly Intern Committee

**NCCRS Staff Supervisor:** Philip Kahn, Assistant Director

**Location of Evaluation:** On-site Review

**Purpose of Evaluation:** To determine the comparability of one program to college-level learning and consider revalidating/extending college credit recommendations.

**Background**

The New York State Assembly, an NCCRS member since 1978, is one of the two houses of the State Legislature whose major function is the consideration of legislation. In 1971, the Assembly established the Intern Committee directed by a bipartisan group of legislators with strong interests in higher education. The Assembly Intern Committee is provided for in the Assembly Rules and is composed of the following legislative leaders: Speaker Pro Tempore, Assistant Speaker, Majority Leader, Deputy Majority Leader, Chair of the Higher Education Committee, Minority Leader, Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee, and Ranking Minority Member of the Higher Education Committee. The Committee has a permanent staff which carries on the day-to-day activities of the Session Internship. The Committee appoints two Professors-in-Residence from a college or university in New York State each year to teach the regular courses and supervise the educational aspects of the program. The Session Internship is open to New York State residents matriculated in a college or university degree program as juniors or seniors. Out-of-State residents and international students, with the appropriate documentation, who are similarly matriculated in a college or university degree program in the United States, are also eligible to apply. Applicants may be from any major.

The Assembly Intern Committee has developed the structure of the Session Internship with the support of Assembly Staff, faculty, and college and university administrators.

**Course Evaluated**

Assembly Intern Committee/Session Internship

**Organization Contact**

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### Evaluation Team

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### Credit Recommendation/Specific Comments

#### **Assembly Intern Committee/Session Internship**

**Version 1 and 2:** In the upper division baccalaureate degree category, 15 semester hours in appropriate departments or as a general elective credit (4/78) (8/87 revalidation) (6/92 revalidation) (5/97 revalidation) (6/02 revalidation) (6/07 revalidation) (6/12 revalidation) (6/17 revalidation) (6/22 revalidation).

The program continues to be top notch. Evaluators noted a lot of positive changes with the program since the last evaluation in 2017. Many came as a response to COVID, but more importantly have provided long run benefits to the program. Evaluators applaud the dedication and adaptability exhibited by staff members, and the diversity of activities they have designed during this challenging time. The way each instructor emphasized the importance of helping students see the connection between their role in the legislator's office, the world of practical politics, and the bigger picture emphasized in their classroom is also appreciated.

To get everyone on the same page, Monday morning "week to come" meetings involving the entire cohort have been instituted. At the same time, small groups of students organized into "pods" have weekly meetings led by graduate students. Both activities are positive steps. The program orientation process has also been expanded, and there are new efforts to train the legislative staff/internship supervisors to clarify expectations and to help integrate the academic and practical components of the program, which is another important advancement. In addition, greater attention is being paid to the importance of the budget process. Activities, including mock hearings, have been impactful. The textbook has been updated, and a portfolio requirement has been added. Practicum sessions help students build their portfolios. These advancements have helped tremendously in terms of taking the program to the next level.

The only specific requirement for improvement the evaluators noted is the inclusion of an appropriate statement in the syllabus about Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations. In addition, evaluators shared some observations for future consideration. The non-mandatory presentations and workshops held on Fridays encompass an interesting range of topics and skills and seem to serve a variety of purposes for students and faculty member. It is suggested these sessions could be organized into categories (e.g., skills, current events) with a certain number made mandatory. The presenters could also be expanded

to include speakers from among the legislators and other guests with expertise in state politics. As noted during the conversation at the review, the clear guidelines students receive and the ways in which the academic components and assignments support the final paper are impressive. Evaluators wonder if more variation and inclusion of “big picture” and “takeaway” questions on the assessments aimed at keeping students accountable for readings and lectures might provide useful feedback for faculty members.

Finally, evaluators engaged in conversation on the pros and cons of the changes in program size in the past few years, mostly resulting from the pandemic. They imagine a smaller group of students offers potential benefits for all participants in terms of quality, however wonder about the balance of quality and quantity. This internship is a desirable experience for undergraduates from across the state (and presumably for legislators as well), so they wonder what the real tradeoffs are associated with programs of different sizes. From the evaluator’s University at Albany vantage point, they see the transformative qualities of the experience firsthand, on a yearly basis, and they hope the program is expanded to include more students in the future.

### Revalidation

Credit recommendations are valid for a period of five years from June 2022; the course listed above will be scheduled for revalidation in June 2027.

### Link to Course Exhibit

The course exhibit has been updated in the *CCRS Online Directory* and is available for review at <http://www.nationalccrs.org/organizations/new-york-state-assembly>.

### Conclusion

Thank you for inviting NCCRS to evaluate course work offered by the New York State Assembly. We value the opportunity to work with you to offer the benefit of college credit recommendations to your students.



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Philip Kahn  
Assistant Director

Date filed: July 7, 2022