



THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
CARL E. HEASTIE, SPEAKER

INTERN COMMITTEE
PATRICIA A. FAHY, CHAIR

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The New York State Assembly is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
The New York State Assembly Intern Committee seeks to attract to its Internships qualified persons of diverse backgrounds, and pursuant to this policy, no applicant is discriminated against because of race, color, creed, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, domestic violence victim status, genetic predisposition or carrier status, marital status, or military status.
A copy of the Assembly's Affirmative Action Policy is available upon request

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GRADUATE
INTERNSHIP

START YOUR CAREER TODAY!

ALL MAJORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

January – June

The Assembly GRADUATE INTERNSHIP provides a professional development opportunity for up to 10 qualified applicants to serve as full-time staff during legislative session, assisting in policy analysis, legislative research, communications and constituent services, and representing their office at various meetings and in legislative settings. Graduate Scholars have the opportunity to develop their understanding of the legislative process and New York State government, as well as apply their ideas and research skills in a professional office environment. Graduate Interns are required to attend Issue Forums, staff training sessions and workshops designed to take theory into practice, and through which Graduate Scholars learn the hard and soft skills practiced in a legislative office. In turn, each Graduate Intern leads a group of 10-15 undergraduates enrolled in the Assembly's Session Intern Program, helping them apply their academic coursework to the practice of legislative work. This "Practicum" component of the program culminates in Graduate Interns leading the undergraduates in staging a series of "Mock Legislative Budget Hearings" in mid-February and a "Mock Legislative Session" in May, and the production of individual professional portfolios of written legislative work products. The Internship affords a unique opportunity with many of its participants moving to permanent positions in the Assembly, other government agencies, or firms practicing public affairs in the nonprofit or private sectors.

Professor-In-Residence



Janet Penksa, PhD

Dr. Penksa has held a number of senior level positions in academia and the public and private sectors. She launched her career in the New York State Legislature as a Graduate Scholar on the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. She rose to the appointed position of Secretary to the Ways and Means Committee in 1993, making her the first woman in the history of New York State to oversee one of the three key state fiscal offices in Albany. Dr. Penksa subsequently served as an Associate Vice President at the University at Buffalo from 1999-2005, overseeing the Office of Government Affairs.

From 2007 to 2012, Dr. Penksa served as Commissioner of Administration, Finance, Policy and Urban Affairs for the City of Buffalo. Among her accomplishments, Dr. Penksa directed the city's fiscal management practices that resulted in the end of the NYS imposed financial control period and increases in the city's Wall Street credit ratings to "A" grade, the highest in over 40 years.

Dr. Penksa received her doctorate from the University at Buffalo. She earned a master's of public administration and an undergraduate degree at SUNY Binghamton. She has been a Visiting Lecturer at Cornell University's Institute for Public Affairs and a Visiting Associate Professor at Buffalo State College, teaching public budgeting, metropolitan governance, and strategic planning for not-for-profit agencies and government in its MPA program.

Assembly Graduate Scholars receive a \$18,000 stipend for the six month, full-time Internship which coincides with the legislative session from January through June. The Internship provides a unique mix of professional leaders and educational experience.



2023 Graduate Internship Class