The MPA-GPSI Professional Internship Experience is a joint effort between the Graduate Public Service Internship office and the Master of Public Administration program to offer an exceptional graduate opportunity at the University of Illinois Springfield. Students gain the benefits of a graduate education alongside a professional internship within a public service organization.

Housed in the state capital of Illinois, the 5th largest state economy in the United States and largest in the Midwest, the MPA-GPSI experience prepares future professionals to engage complex, public problems and improve people’s lives. The experience bridges education and practice to launch a student into a career in public service.

Participants will acquire important skills for future success.

Specialized Skills
- Budgeting
- Personnel Management
- Analytical Skills
- Grant Writing
- Economic Forecasting
- Research
- Database Development and Management
- Auditing

Life Skills
- Communication
- Presentation
- Collaboration
- Valuing Diversity
- Networking
- Career Development
- Professionalism
- Interpersonal Skills
Master of Public Administration Degree
A Masters of Public Administration (MPA) is a professionally-oriented degree equipping current and future public and nonprofit leaders with the skills to govern on principles of efficiency, effectiveness, economy and social equity for all. The program teaches skills in planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting, budgeting, policy and more.

Graduate Public Service Internship Program
The Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) program ranks as one of Illinois’ premier governmental internship programs. Participants simultaneously experience a public sector internship while earning a graduate degree from the University of Illinois Springfield. They spend 20 hours a week during the fall and spring semesters applying the skills learned in the classroom to the organizational setting and work 40 hours per week in the summer term.

Application Process
Submit Graduate and GPSI Application materials by March 15 for the first round of consideration or May 1 for the second round of consideration for GPSI internships. Students are screened for potential success in the programs, and admission is given upon an offer of a GPSI position. Students may still elect to pursue admission to the MPA irrespective of being awarded a GPSI position.

Admission requirements for each program include a 2.5 cumulative undergraduate GPA and the following application materials:

MPA Application
1) Graduate application: go.uis.edu/applytoday
2) *Personal goals statement
3) *Résumé/CV
4) OPTIONAL – GRE and *letters of recommendation (up to three)

GPSI Application
1) GPSI application
2) *Résumé/CV
3) *Three letters of recommendation dated within the past 18 months
4) OPTIONAL – Signed FERPA GPA release form if you wish to share your GPA with prospective GPSI internship supervisors. Send to gpsimail@uis.edu.

*Résumé and letters of recommendation should be used for both applications.

NOTE: The GPSI application is now available through a link in your Application Management Portal upon completion of the program application.

Financial Benefits
Monthly Stipend
During the fall and spring terms your monthly stipend is $1,200 for 20 hours per week of work. During the summer term, you work 40 hours per week and the monthly stipend doubles to $2,400.

Tuition and Fee Waiver
1st year:
Fall—9 hr. tuition, $250 fee
Spring—9 hr. tuition, $250 fee
Summer—4 hr. tuition, $0 fee
2nd year:
Fall—9 hr. tuition, $250 fee
Spring—9 hr. tuition, $250 fee

Tuition differentials, both online and programmatic, are not covered by GPSI tuition waiver.

Professional Development
GPSI interns receive $300 each year for professional development opportunities, such as attending conferences, purchasing scholarly journals, memberships in professional organizations, etc.

Potential Agency Partners and Positions
Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services (DHFS)
• Management Operations Analyst Trainee Intern
• Fraud Waste Abuse Research Intern

Illinois Department of Insurance (IDI)
• Hearing Coordinator/Law Clerk
• Media Relations Intern
• Legal Services Intern

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)
• Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Programs Intern
• Community Relations Intern

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
• Federal Grant Program Manager Intern
• Environmental Project Coordinator

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO)
• Community Assistance Program Intern

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
• Oil & Gas Permitting and Enforcement Intern

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
• Newborn Screening and Genetics Intern
• Chronic Disease Intern
• Medical Cannabis Registry Program Intern
• Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Intern