

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Brandon Grace

Graduation Semester & Year: Spring 2027

Semester & Year of Internship: Summer 2025

Major: Political Science

Minor: Pre-Law

Hobbies: My hobbies include writing music, hanging out with friends, and traveling to explore new places and cultures.

Campus Activities: My prior campus activities include participating in student government and working with the Student Activities Board

Future Plans/Career Goals: I plan to attend law school because my goal is to become a lawyer who helps others and makes a positive impact. I'm especially interested in criminal law and real estate law, as both offer unique opportunities to advocate for people and protect their rights. Becoming a lawyer is a path that aligns with my passion for justice and service.

Hometown:

Irwin, PA



- **Internship (company/your title):**

The American Legion via The Washington Center/Legislative Intern

- **How did you find your internship?**

I found the internship opportunity through The Washington Center's portal while searching for roles that aligned with my interests under the law category. The legislative position immediately stood out to me because of its focus on policy and public service. I applied for the role, excited about the chance to gain hands-on experience in the legislative process.

- **What were your duties?**

During my internship, my duties included tracking bills and monitoring their progress through the legislative process. I also wrote legal drafts of bills, conducted legal research to support proposed legislation, and attended hearings on Capitol Hill to take detailed notes. Additionally, I helped organize and set up events related to legislative initiatives.

- **How many hours per week were you at your internship site?**

I spent about 32 to 40 hours per week at my internship location, fully immersed in the day-to-day responsibilities of the role. Each day, I commuted to work using the metro, which gave me a reliable and efficient way to travel across the city. The experience helped me develop a strong routine and adapt to a professional work environment.

- **What did you enjoy most about your internship?**

What I enjoyed most about my internship was the opportunity to create a bill draft focused on supporting veterans with disabilities. I was proud to gain support from several representatives and law firms who believed in the bill's mission. One of the most meaningful parts of the process was conducting extensive research on ADHD in veterans after their service, which helped shape the bill's foundation. This experience deepened my understanding of the challenges veterans face and how policy can make a real difference. Going forward, this work will help me continue advocating for veterans with solid research and legislative knowledge behind it.

- **What was the most difficult aspect of the internship?**

The most difficult aspect of my internship was working on the research for the bill. I had to piece together information from multiple sources and ensure everything was backed up with reliable statistics. It was challenging to make sure the data truly supported the bill's purpose and could hold up under scrutiny. I also had to revise the bill several times before getting it right, which taught me the importance of precision and persistence in the legislative process.

- **How did your experience at UPG and within your major prepare you for your internship?**

My experience at Pitt-Greensburg, especially through my writing courses, prepared me well for my internship. These courses taught me how to conduct thorough research and properly cite credible sources, which were essential for drafting and supporting legislation. They also helped me develop strong time management skills, allowing me to set and meet deadlines independently. Overall, my major gave me the foundation I needed to handle the detailed and disciplined work required during the internship.

- **How has your internship prepared you for a career?**

My internship has prepared me for a career by giving me a clear understanding of the legal process involved in writing legal drafts. This hands-on experience taught me how to carefully research and develop documents that are crucial in law. I believe these skills will be especially useful as I plan to work as a paralegal first, where I can gain more practical experience. Working alongside lawyers will help me deepen my knowledge of the legal field. Overall, the internship has given me a strong foundation to build a successful career in law.

- **What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?**

My advice for other students doing an internship is to get out there and talk to as many people as you can. During my internship, I made so many valuable connections that will help me even after undergrad, including meeting a great lawyer who has agreed to mentor me. Being in DC allowed me to meet people from all around the world and from all walks of life, which was an incredible experience. It's really important to introduce yourself and start conversations because you never know who you might meet or how they could influence your future. Building relationships and networking can open doors you didn't expect. So, don't be shy, take every opportunity and don't let people tell you otherwise to steer you away from it.

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