Semester in Practice

The Semester in Practice (SiP) gives students the opportunity to develop practice skills by fulfilling 15 credits (12 field work credits plus a three credit graded seminar). Students work full time during the externship (40 hours per week). In this capstone experience, offered to students in their last year of law school, students have significant exposure to the substantive law in their externship, and focus on skills and professional identity in their seminar. One of a handful of such programs in the country, the Semester in Practice is a bridge from law school to practice.

Each SiP is customized to the needs and desires of the student. Faculty in the Legal Externship Program meet with prospective students to help them find the externship that will provide significant development for them on their way to becoming practicing lawyers. Students in the past have participated in the SiP at District Attorney and Public Defender offices, private firms, general counsel offices in for-profit and non-profit organizations, county attorney offices, and government agencies. The SiP is limited to 8 students per semester, and students will need to complete an application to be admitted to the program.

Our faculty works closely with students and supervising attorneys to coordinate these placements. If you are interested in participating in the Semester in Practice, attend an information session and email externships@law.du.edu to schedule a meeting.

"I want to state how wonderful this semester has been—certainly the best semester I’ve had in law school…This has been an amazing learning opportunity. I feel I have gained real skills I could never have gotten from a classroom setting."

"This semester has been an incredible learning experience…far and away been the highlight of my law school career…I am much better prepared than I would have been if I had just taken normal classes. I have learned countless new skills and developed several lifelong relationships."

"...The Semester in Practice really works…He is ready to take an associate’s job."