

PICKER SEMESTER-IN-WASHINGTON PROGRAM

Smith College

Northampton, Massachusetts 01063

The Department of Government at Smith College offers a Semester-in-Washington program designed to give students an opportunity to participate in political processes and to study the operation of public institutions. The program is named in honor of Jean Sovatkin Picker '42 and is known as the Picker Program.

The program runs from summer through mid-December. It is intended for first-semester juniors and seniors with backgrounds in social sciences. The program is highly selective; only students with strong academic records are accepted. Fourteen hours of academic credit (the equivalent of three and a half full courses) are given for successful completion of the program. Four hours are received for a seminar on policy-making in the national government, taught by J.P. Robert Hauck, Associate Executive Director of the American Political Science Association. Two hours are given for a seminar on political science research also conducted with Professor Hauck. Eight hours are accorded for a research project, culminating in a paper dealing with an aspect of government policy. The research project and papers are directed by Donald Baumer, Professor of Government at Smith College and the Director of the Picker Program. Professor Baumer meets with students several times during the semester. The program provides summer stipends and assists students in their efforts to arrange housing.

Interns do not receive academic credit for their internship per se. It is expected that their work as interns will inform their research projects. Final papers, however, are evaluated independently of their internships. Many interns, then, find it helpful to arrange release time from work to pursue their research (possibly one day a week in the fall). They also must be available to meet with the Program Director during his four-five visits to Washington in the fall. Specific arrangements for release time should be worked out between the intern and her employer.

Donald Baumer's phone number is 413-585-3534. He can be contacted on email at dbaumer@smith.edu. The Alumnae Coordinator in Washington, D.C., is Annie Russo Bellavia, who can be reached at (202-293-4544) or annierusso@hotmail.com

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