

My name is Colin Meehan, and I grew up in the Milwaukee area before coming to the University of Missouri to study business management. I am applying for the Civic Leaders Internship Program because I want to learn more about how government works in practice and the ways policy decisions affect people and communities across the state.

Working for the City of Wauwatosa gave me a firsthand look at how much coordination and effort goes into keeping a city running. In that role, I saw how every department contributes to the community and gained a genuine appreciation for the people who make local government work. During my time in Missouri, I worked with Columbia Parks and Recreation at the Armory, where I helped strengthen communication between staff and local groups through community outreach for a class project. I learned that even small improvements in organization and planning can make a real difference in how local programs succeed. I have always been drawn to roles where I can help people directly and see the results of my work.

Through my business and journalism coursework, I have built skills in communication, organization, and leadership that translate well into a legislative or departmental setting. I enjoy working with others toward shared goals and finding ways to solve problems efficiently. I am especially interested in areas like economic development, small business, commerce, and infrastructure because they tie directly to what I study and support my future career goals.

I have also had friends who worked in Jefferson City, including one who interned for Senator Bob Onder and another who served in the Missouri House of Representatives. Hearing about the responsibilities they took on and what they learned inspired me to seek a similar experience. I see this as a chance to take what I have learned at Mizzou and apply it to something bigger than the classroom.

If selected, I plan to bring a strong work ethic, a positive attitude, and a willingness to learn. I want to contribute wherever I can, whether that means helping with research, writing, giving tours of the Capitol, or assisting with constituent services. Overall, I hope to combine my background in business and management with what I learn through this internship to help strengthen communities and make a positive difference in Missouri.