

Hayden Hawkins

CLIP Personal Statement

I am pursuing the CLIP internship because I want to bridge my classroom learning with meaningful service to the state of Missouri. The chance to contribute to an office that directly shapes policy offers not just professional development, but a way to give back to the community I call home. I hope to gain background in a legislative or government environment which will provide connections, knowledge, and growth as I navigate my final years of undergrad. Not only will this internship guide me in post-grad decisions but will also round my education, pursuant to the Missouri Method of learning from real-world experience.

With my time at Mizzou, I have participated in the Missouri Students Association Senate which replicates legislative proceedings of both the state and federal level. This experience has taught me legislative processes such as policy creation and Robert's Rules of Order. In my Operations Chair role I have presided over confirmation hearings and committee meetings which have grown real legislative skill. I have also gained soft skills, for example, communication, especially in times of conflict, and confidentiality/sensitivity. Additionally, my roles in the Association as well as job experiences have taught me the importance of time management and efficiency. While new to both the University of Missouri Campus Standing Committees on Artificial Intelligence and Student Affairs, my role as an undergraduate representative rests on my ability to recommend and advise the committees on policies from a student perspective. Moreover, my lobbying experience taught me to communicate effectively with policymakers, prepare concise pitches, and advocate for educational priorities, all skills that transfer directly to legislative work.

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With the possibility of becoming a CLIP intern, my future opportunities broaden as this will strengthen my resume and knowledge. In addition, this opportunity offers the ability to see firsthand a work environment that is possible post-grad which would help guide me as I navigate my future. While my long-term goal is law school, I see law and public service as intertwined. This internship will allow me to explore the legislative side of policy before committing to a legal career, broadening my perspective and strengthening the skills I will carry into law and beyond. I truly believe that I am a well qualified, effective candidate that will absorb and learn for this internship while also being of service in whichever office I am placed in.