

My name is Madeline Sundheim, and I am a senior studying Public Administration and Policy with minors in Public Health and Political Science. After graduation, I plan to attend law school to expand on the policy and analytical skills I've developed as an undergraduate so that I can advocate for others on a larger scale. I am applying for the Civic Leaders Internship Program because I believe that first-hand experience in the legislative process will be essential to my future success as a lawyer and public servant.

I have always been drawn to work that blends service, policy, and communication. My work as Vice President of Risk Management for the Panhellenic Association, where I oversaw the safety and wellness of more than 4,000 members, taught me to translate complex university and national policies into clear, practical guidance for students. This ability to simplify and communicate complicated information is something I would bring to a legislative office, whether through research briefs, media materials, or constituent communications. This role, as well as my position as the Vice President of Internal Affairs and Academics for Kappa Kappa Gamma, have grown my delegation and team management skills, as I have led multiple committees and supervised other officers, ensuring that projects move forward efficiently. I would bring this ability to my internship by organizing team responsibilities strategically, ensuring that projects are completed on time and to a high standard.

Additionally, my experiences as a Community Health and Partnerships Intern with HealthPartners and an Affordable Housing Coalition Assistant with Love Columbia have strengthened my understanding of the policy process at both local and organizational levels. I researched and recommended housing initiatives, organized community health programs, and strategized media communications, which has all strengthened my ability to connect policy ideas to community needs. These experiences have given me a strong foundation in research, writing,

and stakeholder engagement that would directly benefit the office I serve in through the Civic Leaders Internship Program.

Working for the University of Missouri in multiple capacities, as a Summer Welcome Leader, Academic Tutor, and student leader, has also given me valuable insight into institutional operations and communication. These roles taught me how to connect with diverse groups of people and represent an organization with professionalism. As an out-of-state student, I bring a unique perspective on how policy affects students and young professionals who are building new lives in Missouri.

This internship represents an opportunity to merge my academic knowledge, leadership experience, and passion for public service. By working alongside public officials and legislative staff, I hope to deepen my understanding of how government functions and how I can contribute to it in a meaningful way. This experience will provide me with important insight into policymaking and advocacy, equipping me with the skills to draft, analyze, and communicate policy effectively as a future lawyer. I am excited to bring my skills and perspective to the Civic Leaders Internship Program and to use this experience as a foundation for a career dedicated to equitable policymaking.