

**Research Experience for Undergraduates:  
Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) Positions Open (Paid and Unpaid)**

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC) is a link between University of Nebraska researchers, elected and appointed officials, state and local agency staff, the public at large, and others who represent the diverse policy interests of Nebraska. The PPC provides assistance to policymakers and researchers on a wide range of public policy issues, working with policymakers in all three branches of government at local, state, and federal levels.

We currently have several openings for undergraduate students interested in doing research with our Science in Society (SciSIP) project. SciSIP is a National Science Foundation (NSF) funded grant project to develop a social-cognitive, multilevel, empirically-based model of public engagement for the shaping of science and innovation policy. Researchers on this project investigate how individuals learn about and form opinions on the ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of innovative science developments such as nanotechnology, and how they communicate those opinions to inform public policy regulating the science.

We have up to two paid positions available and up to three positions for unpaid undergraduate interns. The successful candidates for the paid position should have approximately 10 to 15 hours of availability per week. The position is supported by NSF and pays \$9 per hour. Because it is a paid position, there will be responsibilities consistent with being an undergraduate research assistant at the PPC. The paid URA position will be one of leadership and coordination. Applicants are expected to have excellent communication and organization skills in addition to possessing or willing to learn other research skills necessary to be a successful project member.

The unpaid intern positions are designed for students who have five to eight hours weekly available to work on the project. Unpaid interns are not expected to have the same level of commitment to the PPC or the project. Unpaid internships are an opportunity for interested students to learn, without the expectations of a paid position.

Either unpaid or paid students must be available for the weekly project meeting from 3:30 to 5:00 on Thursdays this semester. Project meetings in the future may be able to be scheduled to accommodate all project members' schedules.

While the expectations and responsibilities of the paid URAs will be higher, general URA duties will include research, transcription, data collection, data entry, general support for the project and the PPC office. Policy background is not necessary, but interests in social sciences (psychology, sociology, political science, etc.), science communication, nanotechnology, ELSI, and/or research methods and statistics are especially welcome. Most importantly, we are interested in hiring individuals who are motivated, reliable, willing to work hard, and who are eager to learn more about empirical research and project-related topics. All positions will start as soon as possible and will require a minimum one semester commitment. We prefer those able and interested in continuing into the summer and the fall semester, but this is not a prerequisite.

Interested students should send a short letter of interest, a resume, a writing sample, a transcript (unofficial is OK), and the names of two academic references to [jklein2@nebraska.edu](mailto:jklein2@nebraska.edu) or via postal mail to:

Jenn Klein  
SciSIP URA Position  
University of Nebraska Public Policy Center  
215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 401  
Lincoln, NE 68588-0228

Questions may be directed to Jenn as well. Diverse applicants are encouraged to apply. UNL is committed to AA/EEO and ADA/504. If you require an accommodation, please call (402) 472-5678.

For more information about the Public Policy Center and its projects, please visit <http://ppc.nebraska.edu>.