

The Internship Presentation

Length of time: Your internship presentation lasts about an hour altogether. You should count on spending about 10-15 presenting your report; the rest of the time will be filled by faculty questions and discussion among you and your committee.

Content: Plan on presenting the highlights of your report. Specifically, you should be prepared to talk about how the literature and your coursework relates to your internship, and what precisely you accomplished.

Form: Your presentation can be relatively informal; however, note-cards or other aids will help give it a polished appearance. Practice your presentation a few times before the actual date. You may use media in making your presentation (overheads, etc), but you should check with the department beforehand to make sure it can be accommodated. The faculty secretary can photocopy handouts (if any) you would like to present to the committee. Remember, a professional demeanor and attitude will reflect well on your presentation. Please bring your report with you.

Questions: The faculty may jump in with questions during your initial presentation, or they may wait until you have finished. Their questions are designed to get a fuller understanding of what you learned in your internship and how it applies to what you learned in the program. Although it sounds intimidating, most students actually appreciate the focused attention they get from three faculty interested in their work.

Assessment: After the faculty have finished questioning you, you will be dismissed from the room, to give them a chance to evaluate your presentation. They may accept the report or ask for revisions, based on the following criteria:

- Knowledge of the relevant literature
- Ability to connect the internship to political science literature/classes
- Relevance of the internship to the program
- Professionalism of presentation

Once their decision has been made, you will be called back into the room and informed of the outcome. If your report is accepted, you will need to submit an official copy of it to the departmental secretary (you may be asked to make some editing changes before the report becomes official).