UNIFORM POLICIES
GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF LEGISLATIVE INTERNS

Interns should recognize and appreciate that their conduct and deportment reflect not only on themselves but also on the General Assembly and the institutions from which they have been selected, and that while serving as interns they are serving in the public gaze. Therefore, the following policies are adopted and applied to all students serving the General Assembly in the Capacity of an intern:

1. All interns are required to attend the pre-session orientation sponsored by the Legislative Internship Program Director.
2. Interns are required to keep regular state business hours (Monday – Friday, 08:00 – 4:30) during the term of their appointments. As legislative employees, interns are further advised that there may be occasions when they will need to work overtime to complete their work assignments, so they should plan to adjust their schedules accordingly.
3. Interns are allowed one hour for lunch and should be coordinated with the office staff.
4. Interns should follow a dress code of standard office dress including for female employees a professional dress, skirt and blouse, suit, dress slacks, or other professional ensemble. In the case of male employees, a suit or dress trousers and jacket, together with appropriate accessories.
5. Interns should report for work every day. If extreme circumstances necessitate an intern’s absence or tardiness, the intern should advise their assigned office, as well as the legislative internship program director before 8:00 a.m.
6. Interns should keep any information that they acquire in the strictest confidence, and should be advised to ask about any information before relating it to anyone. What goes on in the assigned office should remain in the office. Do not repeat or share information with other interns, staff, or anyone else outside of the assigned office.
7. Interns SHALL NOT attend receptions or other functions held for the General Assembly after hours or outside of the Cordell Hull building. NO EXCEPTIONS.
8. During the term of the internship, interns are banned from participating actively in partisan political activities during the work day. Bearing in mind that they are representatives of the legislature, their colleges or universities, and the internship program.
9. All interns should avoid any conduct or activities that would cause embarrassment or which might ethically, legally, or morally compromise them, their sponsoring institution, or the General Assembly. INTERNS UNDERSTAND THAT THE LEGAL AGE IN TENNESSEE FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IS TWENTY ONE (21) YEARS OF AGE PERIOD.
10. Interns should remember to behave in a courteous manner with any person they may come in contact with in performing their duties. Interns should keep in mind that they are a reflection of the Tennessee General Assembly and the Legislative Internship Program.
11. Interns are not permitted or authorized to solicit or accept contributions or
donations from legislators, lobbyists, or permanent staff for any purpose. This is a
violation of the ethics laws in Tennessee.
12. Interns are not permitted to lobby for or against legislation during the term of their
internship.
13. Interns should use office equipment for legislative business only. Use of
telephones, fax machines, copiers, or any other office equipment, for personal or
political business is strictly prohibited.
14. Interns should recognize that most legislators have only one or two staff members
and that interns are expected to share routine office work (filing, photocopying,
answering the telephone, running errands, posting notices, etc.) with the full-time
staff, if necessary, to expedite the work of a legislator, a committee, or a legislative
office.
15. Interns should also recognize that the limited size of the legislative staff requires
that all legislative employees be expected to demonstrate initiative and cooperation
with each other to meet the demands of a given legislative office.
16. Interns are advised that parking spaces are critical during the legislative session
and strict compliance with all parking regulations is required of all legislative
interns.
17. Interns are reminded that rules of the House and Senate Chambers prohibit
legislative employees, including interns, from entering the chambers during floor
sessions without prior authorization from the Chief Clerk.
18. Interns will be furnished identification badges, which they will be expected to wear
at all times while they are at work for the General Assembly.
19. Any intern found to have violated the policies outlined above shall be subject
to disciplinary action appropriate for the offense to be administered by the
Legislative Intern Program Director, which could result in dismissal from the
program.

Acknowledgment

I,___________________________, have read the above Uniform Policies Governing the
Conduct
(Please print)
Of Legislative Interns, understand their applicability to me, and agree to abide by them.

______________________________  __________________
Signed                           Date