

Penn State Justice Center for Research

A Typical Day

An average day at the Justice Center would usually begin with a briefing by Doris or Matthew, who would get me up to speed with the sentencing-related projects we were working on and outline my tasks for the day.

Most of the time, I would work on the computer to research any literature pertaining to sentencing instruments or gang-desistance. After compiling and reading these related studies, I would produce a literature review, 300 words or less, describing the meat and potatoes of the articles. Matthew or Doris would then use my reviews as a springboard for their projects.

The Most Important Things I learned in the Field

During my internship, I had the opportunity to bear witness to the activities of a world-class academic agency. It was fascinating to see how academic projects are conceptualized, funded, and eventually carried out. I had no

idea that applying for grants was such a thorough and competitive process.

Having always considered academia as a potential career path, I will use the exposure I've garnered at the Justice Center to help me with my future career goals. I learned that academia can be an insulated field, however it also has the potential to interact with other societal institutions if you have the inclination.

My Advice to Future Students

The Justice Center is an environment filled with highly skilled, highly motivated individuals who are also particularly accommodating and personable. I would recommend this position if you are interested in criminal justice related studies and work well independently.

The Highlight of my Experience

The highlight of my internship experience was a lecture given by Dr. David Farrington, a leading criminologist from Cambridge University, who discussed the effectiveness of long term follow-ups in randomized experiments. His level of scholarship was truly inspiring, and motivated me to continue my education beyond a bachelor's degree.

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