Students may extern in a wide variety of federal government-related positions, including federal agencies, executive branch offices, congressional offices and committees, federal courts and non-profit groups engaged in policy research or advocacy. The position must involve substantial legal work carried out under the supervision of a licensed attorney, and it must be tied to Washington, D.C.’s role as the nation’s capital. Students are not limited to placements previously identified by Notre Dame Law School. Students may seek out their own placements, so long as the Law School has an opportunity to review and approve the placements before students apply for them.

The following offices have accepted past Notre Dame externs or have specifically expressed an interest in hosting Notre Dame law externs:

- United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Possible Subcommittees:
  - Subcommittee on the Constitution
  - Subcommittee on Immigration and The National Interest
  - Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law
  - Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism
- U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
- U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission
- Financial Industry Regulatory Authority
- National Collegiate Athletic Association
- U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly (D-IN)
- U.S. Representative Keith Rothfus (R-PA)
- U.S Representative Don Young (R-AK)
- Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)

Those opportunities are just the tip of the iceberg. Potential externs might explore a host of other agencies and opportunities to determine whether they accept academic year externs:

- Federal Administrative Agencies, such as
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Department of Labor
  - National Labor Relations Board
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Department of Justice
- Commission on Civil Rights
- Federal Election Commission
- National Labor Relations Board
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- Consumer Finance Protection Bureau
- Department of Education
- Department of Transportation
- US Citizenship and Immigration Services
- State Department
- Department of Defense
- Internal Revenue Service
- And many more . . .

- Federal Courts that are located only in the District of Columbia:
  - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
  - U.S Tax Court
  - U.S. Court of International Trade
  - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
  - U.S. Court of Federal Claims
  - U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

- Legislative Committees and Offices
  Senate Committees
  - Aging
  - Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
  - Appropriations
  - Armed Services
  - Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
  - Budget
  - Commerce, Science, and Transportation
  - Energy and Natural Resources
  - Environment and Public Works
  - Ethics
  - Finance
  - Foreign Relations
  - Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
  - Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
  - Indian Affairs
- Intelligence
- Judiciary
- Rules and Administration
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control
- Veterans' Affairs

House Committees
- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Armed Services
- Budget
- Education and the Workforce
- Energy and Commerce
- Ethics
- Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi
- Financial Services
- Foreign Affairs
- Homeland Security
- House Administration
- Intelligence
- Judiciary
- Natural Resources
- Oversight and Government Reform
- Rules
- Science, Space, and Technology
- Small Business
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Veterans' Affairs
- Ways and Means

Joint Committees
- Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
- Joint Committee on Printing
- Joint Committee on Taxation
- Joint Committee on the Library
- Joint Economic Committee