

Georgia Bureau of Investigations

Interning for a prestigious state agency more specifically the Georgia Bureau of Investigations has allowed me to gain vast knowledge and apply current skills in the real world of law enforcement. As an intern for the Georgia Bureau of Investigations (Region 14), I had to use communication skills, my knowledge of law enforcement, as well as, physical skills to accomplish various task for the agency. I also learned a great deal about the agency itself, enhanced my knowledge in law enforcement, and policy related issues within the agency.

When evaluating the benefits derived from assignments assigned while interning, I only see them as helpful and beneficial for myself in the future. Learning what it is like to be a Special Agent for the GBI was an experience itself. As an intern I was assigned various tasks such as reading GCIC printouts, checking the mail, filing cases, stamping cases and some other things to keep me busy. Personally, most people would think that those tasks are boring and irrelevant to the profession, but I learned it is part of the job and these are everyday tasks performed by personnel with the GBI. It was interesting seeing how things really work in law enforcement and how things are often distorted from reality. Some problems that I encountered while interning for the GBI were the fact that things were not always busy at times. Sometimes I found myself keeping busy by just watching the news or by doing paper work at times, however; this is cannot be directly linked to the agency itself, just a slow summer.

My internship with GBI proved to be very beneficial to my future profession. I learned ins and outs of the state law enforcement system in Georgia as well as found out some misconceptions about the careers of Special Agents and law enforcement officers. By seeing these misconceptions first hand it has really made me look at the profession from a different aspect. I received great advice from personnel about future plans of what I may want to pursue as a career with a degree in the field of Criminal Justice. Interning with the GBI has made me think about perhaps even taking a new direction with my degree and pursuing a position with the federal government, private sector, or even branching off into city management or human resources after continuing my education.

My internship with the GBI has taught me to look at things from a different prospective. The internship was really exciting and breathtaking learning several new things along the way as well as getting first hand experience. I experienced a wide array of things from working a crime scene with the crime scene specialist to collecting marijuana. The internship has allowed me to enhance my communication and personal skills. I learned that GBI agents have to have both aforementioned qualities for the reason that is a request agency and is always working with local law enforcement agencies as well as federal agents and other state agencies such as South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the public.

The education I am receiving here at the University of West Florida in the Criminal Justice program has only been beneficial and allowed me to go into my internship knowing that things are often misconstrued and not really what they appear to be. I have learned that more often than not individuals are often given a poor understanding of how the Criminal Justice system really works. Personally, I feel that

this is not true here at the University of West Florida. One change however, that I would think might help future students in choosing a career in Criminal Justice is through first hand knowledge and experience. I am a firm believer that education is a vital tool in understanding our Criminal Justice system, but experience is just as critical. When advising and providing insight to an individual perusing an internship with any agency, I would tell them that they should really examine the agency and the field of criminal justice and make sure they really want to go into the profession. Personally, individuals should just have a desire to peruse a degree in Criminal Justice, but if it is lacking the field may not best suit them. I would highly recommend the Georgia Bureau of Investigations for anyone pursuing an internship in the field of law enforcement. The agency is a top of the line state agency with great personnel; they made my internship worthwhile and were very hospitable even going out of the way to show me what the field of law enforcement is truly about.