



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: City Manager

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 5, 2024

Re: Service Agreement with University of Missouri, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs

## Executive Summary

During the Fiscal Year 2024 budget process, City Council approved funding to provide a student intern from the University of Missouri's Truman School of Government and Public Affairs. A graduate student will work with the City to conduct research to support the activities of the Mayor, City Council and City Manager's Office. The agreement provides a fixed sum payment of \$15,729 to the University of Missouri per semester for one student.

## Discussion

The graduate students will be paid directly by the University of Missouri working an average of 20 hours per week from the first of February through May 10, 2024. Specific days and hours will be agreed upon between the City and student. This is a paid internship program designed for a graduate student who are interested in pursuing a career in public service, learning about U.S. local government processes, and/or applying academic knowledge and skills in a practical manner within various public service professions. Specific examples of the types of research may include a literature review on a policy issue or a scan of procedures implemented by other local governments around specific policies. Student will also provide support to the Mayor and City Council with communications and planning.

Many City departments have historically offered collegiate credit internship programs for students from many different universities and colleges across the country. In these cases, the students are typically hired by the City as a part-time temporary employee earning an hourly wage commensurate with the position.

Under this agreement, the City will pay the University of Missouri who will be responsible for all stipends, benefits, and/or other compensation directly to the student.

The anticipated budget per semester is as follows:

- Stipend for student \$8,650
- Tuition (based on 9 credit hrs) \$4,500
- Health Insurance \$2,579

Total per semester: \$15,729

The student will be a Masters of Public Administration Graduate Assistant selected by the Truman School for Government and Public Affairs. The student will earn college credit and the City shall provide performance evaluations to the Director of Graduate Studies.



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The City or Truman School may extend this program upon notice for a period of no more than five years after the effective date of this agreement. The agreement may also be terminated by either party without liability by providing a thirty-day notice to the other party.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$15,729 per semester, or \$31,458 per year.

Long-Term Impact: \$31,458 per year for up to 3 years.

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### [Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### [Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

## Legislative History

Date	Action
NA	NA

## Suggested Council Action

Authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement with the University of Missouri.