

I entered Ramapo as a freshman in the fall of 2003 and graduated in the spring of 2007. Originally,

I was drawn to Ramapo by the rural atmosphere, small and friendly campus, and from very positive feedback from people involved with the college. I was involved with the American Democracy Project and with the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity during my time at Ramapo. I majored in Political Science and the college changed greatly while I was there. When I started, each



class was worth 3 credits, and Overlook and Laurel were just a figment of President Rodney Smith's imagination. I graduated with a 3.15 Grade Point Average in the American Government track of the Political Science Major.

My first foray into the work world, which, by the way, is totally different than the collegiate world, was due to my Political Science Seminar class. Since we needed an internship, I decided to turn it into a co-op. By working two days a week and keeping a journal; instead of working only the 60 hours total the class required, I qualified for college credit. Two birds with one stone, I thought. I went for a mini interview at the Cahill Center and handed in my resume, and within two weeks was headed for an interview at the Senator's office.

They took me on board right away and I was immediately put to work sending out constituent responses, writing simple documents, and answering phones. I learned the nuts and bolts of how a legislative office works, how to respond to questions and do research, and, most importantly, how to keep the Senator happy. I graduated at the end of the internship, and to my complete surprise, they asked me to stay on and would pay me hourly for my two days a week. During the rest of the summer, I worked two days a week and kept another part time job at a sub shop. It was very rewarding to receive a paycheck based on my ideology plus reading, writing and political skills as opposed to physical labor. At the end of the summer, they asked me to come on board as a full time legislative aide, which I of course accepted. For a few months I worked as the assistant to the Legislative Director and was shown the political and legislative ropes. I went down to Trenton, learned who to talk to for different situations, and started to familiarize myself with the players involved in the process.

Starting in December of 2007, I was promoted to Legislative Director and the person who was there before me went to work for another legislator across town in the same district. Currently I am in charge of all of Senator Weinberg bills. I correspond with other legislators, guide her bills through the legislative process, and make certain she has the necessary background information for issues she discusses. I also correspond with constituents; answer any questions about her bills, and represent her at meetings and events that she cannot attend. I usually answer to her directly and complete any special policy projects that she has in mind.

In all, I am very satisfied with where I am now in my career. It is very hard to come across political jobs in New Jersey that are based on your intellect and work ethic as opposed to who you know. I love my co-workers, and I know that I am learning from some of the best in the business. I leave the office nightly with the sense that I am helping people and furthering a cause that I believe in.