"My time with OPC provided me with valuable insights, necessary investigative skills, and quality tips regarding the best practices in the fields of Investigation and public policy analysis. More importantly, the agency allowed me to work toward empowering and enacting policy changes in MPD that could establish far-reaching, even national precedent."
Sean Jettner, Investigations Intern

"Interning at OPC was a great way to get experience both in public affairs and local government. As a public affairs intern, I participated in community outreach events, drafted social media content as well as drafted and designed various communication materials. Additionally, I built memorable relationships with other staff and interns that I will always be grateful for."
Catie Armstrong, Public Affairs Intern

"If I could sum up my experience in less than ten words: Excellent place to learn and work in administrative law. As a law clerk, I had the opportunity to learn all sides of the office from working with investigators to writing policy to sitting in on meetings and interviews. Overall, I would not change my experience for anything."
Rachel Wilson, Law Clerk
WHAT WE DO

The Office of Police Complaints (OPC) is a government agency that receives, investigates, and resolves complaints from the public alleging police misconduct, including claims of discrimination, excessive force, harassment, and unprofessional language and conduct.

The agency is independent of the police departments it investigates. OPC also issues policy recommendations that focus on reducing police misconduct through better training, supervision, and discipline of police officers, as well as improving the citizen complaint process.

In addition, OPC conducts outreach, trainings, and presentations for a variety of audiences throughout the District of Columbia metropolitan area. OPC also participates in community forums, festivals, town hall meetings, and other events to educate the public about the agency’s mission and services.

OPC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

OPC’s Internship program provides undergraduate, graduate, and law school students the opportunity to advance both professionally and academically by learning about and working in the growing field of police accountability and oversight.

INVESTIGATIVE
Investigative Interns collect and review evidence for police misconduct investigations, draft interview questions, participate in interviews, and assist with special projects.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Public affairs Interns develop communication and outreach materials, plan and participate in community outreach events, create social media content, and perform research.

LAW
Law clerks conduct legal and policy research, write legal memoranda on police misconduct related issues, attend agency complaint examination hearings, and participate in meetings with government and police department officials.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

• Summer interns are paid and must commit to working 40 hours per week.
• Spring and fall interns must commit to working at least 16 hours per week.
• Spring and fall internships are unpaid, but can be done in conjunction with a course for academic credit.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit application materials online at: https://policecomplaints.dc.gov/page/internship-program.

Each program requires the following:
• Cover letter
• Resume
• Transcript
• Writing sample

* See specific Internship program description on OPC’s website for the type of writing sample to submit.