



# POSITION DESCRIPTION: DRUG FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT INTERN

**Type:** Part-time internship, 25 hours / month

**Supervisor:** Policy and Advocacy Director

**Location:** remote

**Stipend:** \$500/month (can be waived if restricted for course credit or academic reasons)

**Term:** October 15th - May 31st, 2022 (Start and end dates are flexible; internship may be eligible for renewal.)

## Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) is the largest global youth-led network dedicated to ending the War on Drugs. At its heart, SSDP is a grassroots organization, led by a Board of Directors primarily elected by and from our student and youth members. We bring young people of all political and ideological orientations together to have honest conversations about drugs and drug policy. We create change by providing a platform where members collaborate, communicate, share resources with, and coach each other to generate policy change, deliver honest drug education, and promote harm reduction. Founded in 1998, SSDP has thousands of members in hundreds of communities around the globe.

## Mission statement

Students for Sensible Drug Policy is an international grassroots network of students who are concerned about the impact of drug misuse on our communities, but who also know that the “War on Drugs” is failing our generation and our society.

SSDP mobilizes and empowers young people to participate in the political process, pushing for sensible policies to achieve a safer and more just future. SSDP does this while fighting back against counterproductive policies – in particular, those that directly harm students and youth.

## Core cultural values

- Efficiency
- Transparency
- Humility
- Optimism
- Inclusiveness
- Light-heartedness
- Diligence
- Objectivity
- Consistency
- Self-care
- Compassion

## The position

The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Intern is primarily responsible for developing and implementing SSDP’s legislative strategy regarding the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA). The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Intern will assist SSDP’s Policy and Advocacy Director to develop our organizational positions and strategy regarding the DFSCA, a major piece of federal legislation which directly impacts our efforts with our campus-based chapters.

## Responsibilities

### Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA)

- Assisting SSDP Policy and Advocacy Director with drafting a **policy analysis and position paper on the DFSCA**
- Assisting with organizational lobbying and testifying to relevant legislators, staffers, and department officials, specifically targeting the Department of Education and relevant members of Congress

### Additional Responsibilities

- Assist with EveryAction Campaign forms and graphics as assigned
- Assist with design and content on the Action Center and Policy Council pages on the Website as assigned

## Deliverables

- **Drafting a policy analysis and position paper on the DFSCA To understand the DFSCA as currently written and how that constrains (or not) colleges/universities from implementing harm reduction approaches on campus**
  - This position paper will determine if we need to:

- 1) Advocate for amendments to the DFSCA or
- 2) Ask the Department to clarify what schools can do within the current framework
- **Communicate the outcome of the position paper to colleges/universities, educating SSDP members on how their institutions can adopt a harm reduction approach for student safety and wellbeing**
- **Creating a tool kit to empower chapter members to take action in supporting harm reduction efforts on campus**

## Qualifications

Ideal candidates for this position are accountable, creative SSDP members who have engaged in drug policy reform related advocacy at the campus, local, state, or federal level. Candidates must be deeply inspired in developing strategies to amend or clarify the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, with experience in advocacy efforts at the campus level.

### Preferred skills and experience:

- Strong analytical skills specifically pertaining to legislative analysis
- Excellent written communication skills
- Exceptional attention to detail
- Demonstrated willingness and ability to adhere to strict data and record-keeping practices
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Exceptional critical thinking skills and ability to self-manage
- Demonstrated ability to help guide youth activists through legislative processes, especially at the federal level
- Demonstrated ability to help develop, maintain, and/or support coalitions working for a common advocacy-related objective

### Terms of internship

- Stipend: \$500 USD/month. This can be waived if a student forgoes it in order to earn school credit, or due to other academic restrictions.
- Interns are classified as Contractors and are therefore not eligible for employee benefits, but are encouraged to leverage the internship experience for career advancement. Upon completion of the internship, individuals may request a letter of recommendation from their SSDP supervisor.

## Application process

Please submit your application by email to [jobs@ssdp.org](mailto:jobs@ssdp.org) referencing "Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Intern" in the subject line. Applications should include your résumé, a cover letter, and digital materials you have designed if applicable. Cover letters should be addressed to Robert Hofmann. Applications will be reviewed immediately and accepted until the position is filled.

***Students for Sensible Drug Policy is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women or non-binary people, people of color, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. We are particularly interested in hiring those who have been adversely affected by the War on Drugs.***