

Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs
Paid Undergraduate Summer Internship

The [Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs \(WRI\)](#) at Rutgers-Camden has been a long-standing and trusted regional community partner for over 25 years. WRI honors former Senator Rand's dedication to Southern New Jersey and exists to produce and highlight community-focused research and evaluation leading to sound public policy and practice in the region. With that as a foundation, WRI convenes and engages stakeholders in making the connections across research, policy, and practice in support of Camden City and Southern New Jersey residents. Using social science research methods, WRI specializes in transforming data into actionable information across a variety of areas, including workforce development, education, transportation, and public/population health. WRI reinforces and amplifies Rutgers' research, teaching, and service goals by connecting the multidisciplinary expertise of faculty to regional problems, developing research and professional skills in students, and linking the resources of higher education to communities in Southern New Jersey.

Undergraduate Paid Summer Internship Opportunity

For summer 2026, WRI is offering a summer internship opportunity for a rising junior currently enrolled at Rutgers-Camden. This is an exciting opportunity to learn more about community-facing research in Camden City and Southern New Jersey.

During their time at WRI, the WRI summer intern will:

- focus on the next phase of developing WRI's Alumni Network by prioritizing direct outreach and alumni input. Building on last year's database work, this year's intern will work to finalize and distribute a survey to WRI alumni. This survey will focus on understanding how alumni want to engage with WRI's work; explore interest in mentorship, networking events, speaking opportunities, alumni spotlights, and other ways to get involved.
- build a research dissemination directory for WRI's work by creating comprehensive and content-specific (e.g. housing, food insecurity, education) lists of organizations and stakeholders that would be interested in WRI's research and updating contact information for all South Jersey legislators and policymakers

The WRI summer intern may also complete other research-related tasks as appropriate.

The WRI summer intern will be under the mentorship and supervision of the Walter Rand Institute Director and have the opportunity to engage with other WRI staff and student staff.

Eligibility and Other Requirements

Applicants must be a rising junior or a rising senior currently enrolled at Rutgers-Camden as a full-time or part-time undergraduate student in good academic standing with a minimum 3.0 GPA. The summer intern must be available to work 11 weeks from mid-June to mid-August (start and end date flexible) for approximately 15 hours per week in person at the Walter Rand Institute offices at 411 Cooper Street, Camden, NJ. WRI will work with the summer intern to establish a work schedule that is convenient for the student and falls during the general business office hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Successful applicants will demonstrate strong writing, organizational, and critical thinking skills, a basic understanding of the importance of research that focuses on community issues such as transportation, housing, education, and an interest in learning more about the surrounding Camden City and Southern New Jersey region. Proficiency in Microsoft Word and a working knowledge of Microsoft Excel are required.

Compensation

The WRI summer intern will be hired as a Class 5 hourly employee at WRI at \$16.00 per hour. The student will work 15 hours per week for 11 weeks with a ceiling of \$2,640.

Application Requirements and Submission Instructions

To apply, please send pdf document(s) with the following information:

Application:

- Name:
- Rutgers Camden Undergraduate Class of _____
- Major:
- Answers to the following questions:
 1. Why is it important for WRI to stay connected with its alumni and local communities, and how can listening to their perspectives strengthen WRI's work? (up to 300 words)
 2. What do you hope to gain and/or learn through this internship experience? (up to 300 words)
 3. How will this internship experience enhance your educational or professional goals? (up to 300 words)

Attachments:

- Resume
- Writing sample
- Contact information for two professional references, e.g., current/former professor or employer

Interested students should submit applications via email by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 13, 2026. Please send your application to wrand@camden.rutgers.edu with the subject line *Walter Rand Institute Undergraduate Summer Internship 2026*. WRI will acknowledge receipt of each application via email. Late and/or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

Selection Process

Finalist applicants will be invited to participate in one brief interview with WRI staff. A final selection of one student will be made once all interviews are complete.

Timeline

Application Due: March 13, 2026

Final Selection on or near: April 17, 2026

Internship start date: mid-June 2026 (date flexible)

Internship end date: mid-August 2026 (date flexible)

Please direct any questions about the internship to:

Kristin Curtis, MA



RUTGERS-CAMDEN

**Senator Walter Rand
Institute for Public Affairs**

Associate Director of Research at the Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs

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