

Jefferson County Blurb for WWU Intern Opportunity

Come dive into Comprehensive Planning Outreach with Jefferson County. Jefferson County is a fully planning rural county on the Olympic Peninsula that values its natural resources and rural character while striving to create a community people can afford to live in, and we are in the process of updating our Comprehensive Plan. Our planning department is looking for new ways to engage the community in the comprehensive planning process for our 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update, and would love your help creating and implementing valuable public outreach. Our planning team has identified several ways we want to focus our time and energy in our outreach efforts, and have created several opportunities for students that want to join us in the process, online or in person. While we have identified several task-based efforts listed below, creativity is always encouraged and students are welcome to bring their own ideas to the team.

- 1) Survey Creation: Over the next few months our team will be creating surveys for our current Comprehensive Plan Elements, with the goal of sparking public engagement in the process and encouraging meaningful public comment that we can distill into our comprehensive plan. Students are welcome to come alongside us at any point in this process, whether that is to help us create these surveys in January-March, or to help us distill and analyze comments in May and June. This work could be done remotely with weekly team meetings over Zoom.
- 2) In-Person Public Engagement Opportunity: Our planning team will be attending a local “Connectivity Summit” on March 7-9th to educate and engage with our community on the planning process and our Comprehensive Plan Update. Students are welcome to join us in planning and implementing this event by coming up with outreach materials and/or attending the event to help answer general planning questions for the public. Students are welcome to join us for the event, but attendance at the event is not required and the work done to prepare for the event can be done remotely with weekly team meetings over Zoom.
- 3) Creation of educational materials: How do we encourage meaningful public comments that result in meaningful change to our Comprehensive Plan? We believe that educating the public in an engaging and direct way is essential to this aspiration, and we are inviting students to come alongside us to help create educational resources that our community members can access to educate themselves on planning, our comprehensive plan, and how it impacts the community we live in. This work can be done remotely with weekly team meetings over Zoom.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Emily Calkins at planning@co.jefferson.wa.us, or (360)379-4460.