

# INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

## Jenna Dale

**Graduation Semester & Year:** Fall 2024

**Semester & Year of Internship:** Summer 2024

**Major:** Criminal Justice

**Minor:** Legal Psychology

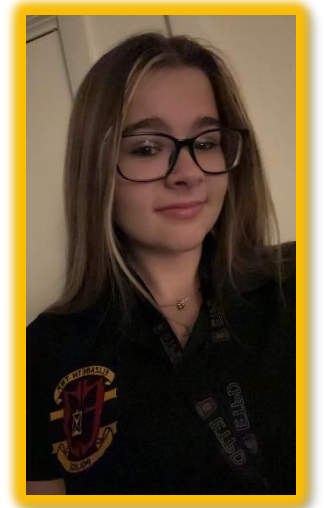
**Hobbies:** Hunting & fishing

**Campus Activities:** Criminal Justice Club/President

**Future Plans/Career Goals:** My future plans after graduating is to attend the Allegheny County Police academy in January 2025. My career goals is to become a police officer after graduating from the police academy.

**Hometown:** Belle

Vernon, PA



- **Internship (company/your title):**  
Elizabeth Township Police Department/ Police Intern
- **How did you find your internship?**  
Elizabeth Township is a town near where I live, so I reached out to them to see if they were taking on police interns.
- **What were your duties?**  
I had several duties while I was with ETPD. During my time there, they were in the process of becoming an accredited police agency. For accreditation, I had to attend weekly zoom meetings that explained to us what we had to do in order to become accredited. Besides working on accreditation, I also got to ride along with officers while they were on patrol. They let me run plates, run speed, they took me on calls, as well as court every other Wednesday.
- **How many hours per week were you at your internship site?**  
16.5 hours per week.
- **What did you enjoy most about your internship?**  
I really enjoyed being able to ride in the cars with the officers and see what it is like to be an officer. Being able to run license plates, run speed, respond to calls, and train with our K9 were all great experiences. I really enjoyed being able to go to K9 training and see dogs from other departments train with their handlers. I even got to train with our dog, Bear, and his handler.
- **What was the most difficult aspect of the internship?**  
The most difficult aspect were seeing people who needed our help because of what they've been through. Policing is not an easy job by any means, and with the job you see some people at their lowest. This can be difficult, but if you are able to help them, it can also be rewarding.
- **How did your experience at UPG and in the Criminal Justice department prepare you for your internship?**  
I took many Criminal Justice classes that taught me about policing and the system. This taught me a baseline of what to expect and how things in the criminal justice system worked. Knowing and having experience about criminal procedure helped when I went to court with the officers, because I already had an understanding of the system works. My classes also taught me a lot of case law which I was able to see play out in the real world with my internship.
- **How has your internship prepared you for a career?**  
My internship has prepared me greatly for my future career. The officers that I was able to work with taught me a lot about the job and other things that I will eventually learn in the academy. This includes, case law, how to run license plates, how to run speed, criminal procedure, and K9 training.

(cont.)

One of the sergeants that I was able to work with is also the Field Training Officer for ETPD, so when working with him, he taught me many of things that are not taught in the academy. Having my internship with ETPD prepared me and they gave me great advice for my career as a police officer.

- **What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?**

I would recommend doing an internship no matter what major you are. Spending my summer with ETPD has prepared me for my future better than some of my classes. Having real world experience in your field will be better than almost anything you can read in a textbook. Growing up, I always knew that I wanted to be a police officer, then when I did my internship, my excitement to become an officer grew even more. Not only will you have real world and hands on experience in your field, but it is also a great networking opportunity. During my internship with ETPD, I got to meet officers from other departments who all gave me great advice for my future. Working as an intern with ETPD was the greatest experience I've had so far with my college career and I could not be more thankful for that.

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