

The School of Public Health (SPH) Internship Program remains a national model for practice and research based public health education and offers a variety of placements for students in our MPH and MS programs. Students are exposed to diverse areas of public health to obtain valuable, practice-based experiences that prepare them for their public health career. For our MPH program, the internship component is viewed as the culminating experience of the student's academic and professional development, providing a meaningful opportunity for each student to integrate knowledge gained during their coursework in a professional setting.

How and when can I get an intern?

- Our internship cycle occurs during the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters. Since our SPH internship program is a formal one, **we only seek internship project proposals from host organizations three times a year.**
- As part of our formal program, students participate in the Internship Selection process during these semesters. This process, facilitated by the School of Public Health, mirrors a typical job search, where students submit resumes and interview for positions.

What are the requirements of the program?

- We seek 3-credit (240 hour) and 6-credit (480 hour) placements for students to aid in meeting their 9-credit (720 hour) requirement for the MPH degree, and 3-credit (240 hour) requirement for the MS degree.
- Internship placements include but are not limited to federal/state/county health departments, community-based organizations, universities/college (with faculty), non-governmental organizations, and private-sector employers;
- Students can also develop their own opportunities through our long-standing relationships with other organizations, alumni, and the Center for Global Health (for international internships).
- Internship hours can be completed as a combination of part-time hours (20 hours/week), during the fall, spring, and/or summer semesters, or full-time hours (40 hours/week for 12 weeks) during the summer semester only.

What does an internship project need to include?

- An internship project needs to address at least one (if not more) of the following components:
 - Assess, monitor, or conduct surveillance of health problems/services in a population;
 - Establish health objectives and priorities
 - Conduct research on population-based health problems including biological, environmental & behavioral issues;
 - Develop and/or implement policies and intervention strategies to meet public health needs;
 - Study the natural history of disease or health-related effects in a population.
- A project also needs to have a designated mentor. Mentors should have advanced degrees (ideally within the field of public health) and should hold decision-making positions within the host organization. A daily supervisor with significant experience as a public health practitioner may be assigned to a student in addition to the mentor.
- Internship project proposals are requested for submission during the academic year at the following times:

Fall semester (early July) Spring semester (early November) Summer semester (early March)

Are the internships paid or unpaid?

- Although many of the internship projects are funded by the employers, some are unfunded. It is not a requirement for the internship project to be paid.
- Potential funding opportunities **may be available** to potential internship sites at no cost to the host organization. Sources of potential funding and eligibility requirements are identified on the Internship Project Proposal Form.

To host an intern, obtain an Internship Project Proposal form, or for more information:

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