

Pennsylvania Department of Health Internship Opportunities

Summer 2016

Applications for these internship opportunities are due Friday January 22, 2016. Please refer to the application instructions on page 2 for submission.

1/8/2016

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Summer 2016 internship opportunities

Eligibility

Internship opportunities for summer 2016 are available to currently enrolled students at a college/university or professional training program. Internship applications for these opportunities may only be submitted by a student attending a Pennsylvania college/university, OR Pennsylvania residents.

Application Process

Please apply for these internship opportunities through the DOH Internship Application. On the DOH Internship Application under the section “Indicate Semester” please select “Summer (May-August)” and under “Type of Experience” please select “Internship/Practicum.” In order for an application to be complete you will need to include the following supporting documents along with your complete DOH Internship Application document: 1) Resume/CV; 2) Copy of Unofficial Transcript; 3) Statement of Interest. **Only complete applications will be reviewed.**

You may submit your application via mail or email. **Applications are due Friday January 22, 2016.** Please see the “Application Submission” section of the DOH Internship Application for address information. If you are mailing in your application, it must be post-marked by January 22nd.

Complete applications received by Pennsylvania Department of Health will be reviewed and undergo a matching process based on student’s skills, interests, and professional goals with internships currently available at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. All applicants will be notified via email about the results of their application by February 19, 2016.

Internship Experience

As an intern at the Pennsylvania Department of Health you will have the opportunity to...

- Use your academic training to tackle real world public health issues
- Network with Pennsylvania Department of Health staff
- Attend PADOH’s monthly Public Health Grand Rounds
- Attend PADOH’s public board meetings, such as the Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions (ABC-MAP) Board Meetings
- Present your work at an end of summer poster presentation attended by PADOH executive staff

Health Planning and Assessment

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Internship Project 1: EMS Agency and Investigation Data Improvement

Type of Student: Graduate, Post-Graduate

Paid/Unpaid: Unpaid, possibly Paid with budget

Location: Harrisburg, PA

Preferred Major/ Area of Study: Public Health, Public Policy

Hours per week: 30-40

Time: May – August 2016

Project Description: The selected candidate will review and analyze data related to EMS resources within the Commonwealth along with current open and closed EMS investigative files. This individual will also develop scorecards, matrixes, and will utilize population data to formulate best utilization and structures within the EMS system and to ensure the comprehensive support of EMS in public health preparedness and response. Deliverable include: The development of searchable access databases that will capture EMS resources and operations of the Bureau as it directly relates to investigations. Development of reports that suggest improved operations of the Bureau and regional ems councils as it relates to public health within the Commonwealth.

Public Health Impact: This project will facilitate a comprehensive review of the operations of the EMS System, the regional EMS system, and will allow for enhanced data outputs. This project also reflects the Bureau's move towards innovation and accountability for the EMS system. This will position the DOH and the Bureau to be a leading state in resource tracking and data collection. Additionally the project will facilitate improved data collection and outputs from the Bureau which will improve the customer service values of the Bureau which tie into the DOH Core Values as reflected by Secretary Murphy.

Expertise/Skills/Competencies:

- Data collection and analysis skills
- Microsoft Access and Excel experience
- Experience with SAS
- Ability to create visual displays of data utilizing various
- Microsoft products
- Database Programming skills related to development of Access databases and queries
- Communications and Interview/Survey Skills

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Bureau of Communicable Diseases

Internship Project 2: Underserved, Over Diagnosed: HIV Disparities, Access, and Programming in Underserved Communities with higher rates of HIV

Type of Student: Graduate, Post-Graduate

Paid/Unpaid: Unpaid, possibly paid with budget

Location: Harrisburg, PA

Preferred Major/ Area of Study: Public Health, Health Disparities, Health Equity

Hours per week: 20 – 30

Time: May – August 2016 with a possible opportunity to continue into fall semester

Project Description: Identify the major causes of HIV disparities in the following populations: 1) women of color; 2) MSM of color; 3) Trans persons within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Review PADOH programs and policies that exist to promote evidence-based and data-driven practices that will help improve HIV program and access to services for these aforementioned communities. Identify potential new local, state, and federal partners to strengthen outreach efforts in these aforementioned communities.

The intern will review the latest program evaluations by the Department of Health, as well as epidemiological data to write a report with recommendations for improvements to existing HIV programs and their target areas.

Public Health Impact: This project will help the PADOH strengthen relationships with communities that are often excluded from conversations about public health initiatives in their communities. Additionally, it will strengthen existing programs and develop new ones to address populations that classified as minority/underrepresented /underserved that are overrepresented among new HIV diagnoses. By doing this, the PADOH will ensure health equity for individuals diagnosed with HIV in the Commonwealth, further promoting its mission of improving health for ALL Pennsylvanians.

Expertise/Skills/Competencies:

- Experience/Strong understanding of BOTH Qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Interviewing and Focus groups
- Program evaluation
- Literature reviews
- Quality Improvement Processes

Bureau of Women Infant and Children (WIC)

Internship Project 3: PA WIC Participant Integrity Project

Type of Student: Undergraduate, Graduate

Paid/Unpaid: Unpaid

Location: Harrisburg, PA

Preferred Major/ Area of Study: Public Health, Epidemiology

Hours per week: 10 -20

Time: May – August 2016 with a possible opportunity to continue into fall semester

Project Description: The intern will collaborate with Department of Health staff and external evaluation contractor staff to assist with the PA WIC Participant Integrity Project. While part of a team, the intern will take a large role in reviewing bureau fraud policy and procedures currently in place, as well as other states' fraud policies and procedures. The intern will be responsible to complete a findings write-up, which is a deliverable for grant funding. The intern will assist with the development of a procurement document to contract with a fraud consultant. The resulting procurement document and contract with a fraud consultant will be the expected deliverable. If already experienced in geographic information system (GIS), the intern will utilize past fraud data to create GIS maps highlighting fraud trends over the years. In addition, the maps developed by the intern will be used as baselines to demonstrate an improvement in fraud prevention activities and reimbursement to the bureau. Finally, a quarterly newsletter template will be developed to be shared with bureau stakeholders and potentially with legislators to illustrate the increased efforts and success of fraud prevention and identification throughout Pennsylvania. Learning outcomes include team building, procurement process understanding, and GIS mapping practice.

Public Health Impact: With the assistance of an intern on this project, bureau staff will be able to more acutely identify Pennsylvania's current fraud prevention strengths and opportunities for development. The research and discovery necessary to identify gaps in current policy and procedures will ultimately result in more efficient use of funds provided to women, infants and children across the state. Funds misused by participants will be more effectively identified, and through the reimbursement of the funds, more women, infants and children will be reached, increasing their long-term health and wellbeing.

Expertise/Skills/Competencies:

- Microsoft Office
- Data Analysis
- Data Entry
- Research
- Performance Management
- Program Evaluation
- Questionnaire Development
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Bureau of Family Health

Internship Project 4: Examining Infant Mortality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Type of Student: Graduate, Post-Graduate

Paid/Unpaid: Paid

Location: Harrisburg, PA

Preferred Major/ Area of Study: Public Health, Maternal Child Health

Hours per week: 20-30

Time: May – August 2016

Project Description: Identify population and community level factors, especially within the social determinants of health that contribute to disparities in infant mortality around the state. Identify communities/subpopulations that are disparately affected by increased infant mortality. Identify challenges to decreasing infant mortality. Identify possible solutions, improvements to existing structures/programs that would decrease infant mortality

The following deliverables will result from this internship experience: a) a needs assessment of the current state of Infant Mortality efforts in Pennsylvania, b) an evaluation of current specific PA DOH Infant mortality programs, c) If time available after completion of the first two deliverables, an academic publication and/or white paper about the Past, Present, and Future state of infant mortality in the state of Pennsylvania.

Public Health Impact: This project will help us strengthen evidence-based programming and outreach to serving communities that could most benefit from the initiatives of PA DOH. By assuring that all infants are availed the same opportunity to thrive and become contributing citizens of the Commonwealth, we are advancing a culture of health equity and health opportunity for ALL children, regardless of where or to whom they are born.

Expertise/Skills/Competencies:

- Experience/Strong understanding of BOTH Qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Focus groups
- Program evaluation
- Interviewing
- Literature reviews
- Quality Improvement Processes

Office of Health Equity

Internship Project 5: Pennsylvania Health Disparities Report 2017

Type of Student: Graduate, Post- Graduate

Paid/Unpaid: Unpaid, possibly paid with budget

Location: Harrisburg, PA

Preferred Major/ Area of Study: Public Health, Health Disparities, Health Equity

Hours per week: 20-30

Time: May – August 2016 with a possible opportunity to continue into fall semester

Project Description: Update the working definitions for “health equity” and “health disparity” used by the PADOH to be in line with national standards. Identify the major health disparities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and identify groups that suffer from them. Assess PADOH programs and policies that exist to promote evidence-based and data driven practices that will help reduce health inequities in Pennsylvania. Identify potential new local, state, and federal partners to strengthen PADOH Health Disparity efforts

The following deliverable will result from this internship experience: Write a significant portion of the “Pennsylvania Health Disparities Report 2017” modeled on the Pennsylvania Health Disparities Report 2012.

Public Health Impact: This report will help the PADOH strengthen existing programs and develop new ones to address health disparity and health equity in the Commonwealth. In collaboration with public and private partners, stakeholders, and community-based organizations, the PADOH will become known as a vested leader in not only identifying, but addressing health disparities across our state. By doing this, the PADOH will ensure health equity, that is, that every Pennsylvanian will have the opportunity to attain his or her full health potential.

Expertise/Skills/Competencies:

- Experience/Strong understanding of BOTH Qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Program evaluation
- Literature reviews
- Data Analysis
- Quality Improvement Processes

Health Innovation

Health Research Office

Internship Project 6: Creating a more effective state – academic research partnership

Type of Student: Graduate, Post-graduate

Paid/Unpaid: Unpaid, possibly paid with budget

Location: Harrisburg, PA **OR** Mostly Telecommute (intern attends 2-4 meetings on site in Harrisburg)

Preferred Major/ Area of Study: Public Health, Health Services Research, Public Policy, Health Policy

Hours per week: 30-40 (negotiable)

Time: May – August 2016

Project Description: At present, the Health Research Office (HRO) within the Deputate for Health Innovation supports the CURE (Commonwealth University Research Enhancement) Program, the mechanism through which the state distributes a portion of the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement monies to fund high-priority research questions to Pennsylvanians. Moving forward, the PA DOH envisions a more expansive and impactful role for the HRO that would advance evidence-based health policy through more connected state – academic research partnerships. This internship affords the opportunity for a graduate or post-graduate level intern in health services research, public health, health policy, public policy, or related fields to develop a proposal detailing how the Commonwealth can establish a more robust HRO that accomplishes this broader goal. As part of the proposal, the intern would be expected to conduct a landscape analysis of existing state – academic research partnerships in other states and a gap analysis between where the PA DOH is presently and where it would like to be in terms of advancing evidence-based health policy. In addition, the intern would be expected to develop a set of recommendations and outline an initial implementation plan for this expanded HRO. Through this project, the intern would gain data analysis and strategic thinking skills, among others.

Public Health Impact: Moving forward, the PA DOH is embracing a data-driven environment across all programs, policies, and quality improvement initiatives. Having a robust research office that is proactive about partnering with academic institutions statewide to advance the development and implementation of evidence-based policy is important to achieving this goal. In the long term, Pennsylvanians will benefit through policies grounded in solid evidence, as well as through state-academic partnerships that leverage resources and expertise to improve health across the Commonwealth.

Expertise/Skills/Competencies: A successful intern is one who is familiar with acquiring, interpreting, and applying evidence in a health context; one who has had experience in strategic thinking; and one who is a strong writer and communicator.

Quality Assurance

Internship Project 7: Public Perception of Nursing Home Care in Pennsylvania

Type of Student: Graduate

Paid/Unpaid: Unpaid

Location: Harrisburg, PA

Preferred Major/ Area of Study: Nursing, Public Health, Communications, Health Policy

Hours per week: 10-20

Time: May – August 2016

Project Description: The outcome of this project will be an historical review and analysis of information presented in the media and other public documents descriptive of the quality of care and quality of life for residents of the Commonwealth's nursing care facilities. The project will also provide an interpretation of findings and recommendations for the Department's consideration regarding the use of information and media to focus public attention on quality of care and shape public perception of the role of government regulators in assuring that nursing home residents receive safe, quality care and services. The intern will be provided with information and materials to provide sufficient background about the Department's role in regulating health care facilities and processed through which the Department engages in regulatory oversight. The intern will be guided to historical resources, such as Departmental archives and older state archives to search for relevant materials from which to identify and compile source documents. The intern will review the source documents to determine themes, areas of focus, and trends evident over time as well as the perspective of the individuals or agencies that issued the documents. The intern will document findings of the review and analysis of trends, themes, and identifiable outcomes of information made available to the public through media and other documents. The intern will present a final report with recommendations for the Department's consideration.

Public Health Impact: This project will aid the Department in understanding the historical perspective relative to ongoing efforts to assess and respond to concerns about quality of care and quality of life for residents of nursing homes. The historical perspective on trends, areas of focus, and the sources of public information will contribute to the Department's plans to proactively address public concerns about the Commonwealth's nursing home residents and their care.

Expertise/Skills/Competencies:

- Literature review
- Analytical skills to identify trends, themes, perspectives presented in public documents and media
- Written communication skills sufficient to organize and present research findings
- Critical thinking capacity sufficient to construct appropriate recommendations based on findings and understanding of the Department's role in regulation of health care facilities

Internship Project 8: Regulatory Oversight and Quality Improvement Training

Type of Student: Undergraduate, Graduate

Paid/Unpaid: Unpaid

Location: Harrisburg, PA

Preferred Major/ Area of Study: Nursing or clinical background, Public Health

Hours per week: 10-30 (negotiable)

Time: May – August 2016

Project Description: Quality Assurance will provide internship opportunities for applicants interested in learning about the regulatory oversight process and education provided by DOH. The intern will be provided with information and guidance regarding the survey process used by QA for state licensure and federal certification. The intern will assist with the analysis and preparation of reports on citation frequency and severity. The intern will use data to identify, and coordinate educational content and subject matter experts for QA to use in future internal and external trainings. The intern will have the opportunity to create and present educational offerings.

- Assist in analyzing survey data to identify educational opportunities for internal and external customers. The top three citations will be analyzed to determine any internal or external training needs.
- Assist in researching clinical practice and industry standards regarding identified deficient practice concerns and citations, to help direct educational offerings.
- Prepare reports on the results of research and data analysis to help explain findings to QA staff.
- Assist in the identification of educational materials for internal and external parties. Currently, there is only one person in QA to address the educational needs of 5 divisions with survey activity, and over 200 survey staff.
- Assist with creating and presenting educational materials on the survey process or clinical best practices, to both internal and external audiences.

Public Health Impact: This project will contribute to the DOH goal of improving healthcare quality, and assist Quality Assurance with meeting its mission of providing accurate and consistent education to DOH staff, the public and healthcare providers regarding quality of care and regulations. This project will assist the Department to establish uniform competency based training for all health care facility quality examiners, leading to uniform understanding, interpretation and application of state and federal regulations and standards for health care facilities.

Expertise/Skills/Competencies:

- Data analysis
- Literature review, Research
- Knowledge of nursing, or other clinical background that provides direct patient care experience
- Proficient in Microsoft, Excel, moderate computer skills

Internship Project 9: Long Term Care Facility Regulatory Compliance

Type of Student: Undergraduate, Graduate

Paid/Unpaid: Unpaid

Location: Harrisburg, PA

Preferred Major/ Area of Study: Nursing, Public Health, Informatics

Hours per week: 10-20

Time: May – August 2016

Project Description: The Department of Health’s Quality Assurance deputate is responsible for licensing, survey and certification of healthcare facilities and agencies. This internship examines the operations and outcomes specific to regulatory monitoring of the Commonwealth’s 700+ nursing homes (long term care facilities).

Intern Activities:

- Review the Department’s regulatory compliance data, 2005- present.
- Comparative analysis of deficiency citations across field offices.
- Analysis of facility specific data contributing to Star Rating assigned by CMS.
- Analysis of state sanctions issued by the Department and federal sanctions issued by CMS.
- Review and analysis of abuse allegation reports.
- Research selected issues related to quality of care and quality of life for nursing home residents, such decreasing use of antipsychotic medication, antibiotic use

Learning outcomes:

- Understanding of state and federal regulations governing PA long term care facilities;
- Understanding operational aspects of assuring facility regulatory compliance;
- Describe and discuss the findings and implications of review and analysis of nursing home compliance data (2005 – present).

Public Health Impact: The products of this internship will provide the Department with information on which to base process improvement initiatives related to monitoring nursing home quality and regulatory compliance. The outcomes will be incorporated into the Department’s quality monitoring and training program.

Expertise/Skills/Competencies:

- Skill in navigating a large, multifunctional database.
- Ability to organize and analyze quantitative and qualitative data.
- Written communication skills sufficient to develop well organized, concise reports of findings of data analysis.

Policy Office

Internship Project 10: Trends in Home Care Licensure since 2011

Type of Student: Undergraduate, Graduate

Paid/Unpaid: Unpaid

Location: Harrisburg, PA **OR** Telecommute with 1-2 days/week in Harrisburg

Preferred Major/ Area of Study: Biostatistics

Hours per week: 10-30 (negotiable)

Time: May – August 2016

Project Description: The intern in this position will work with both the DOH Policy Office as well as the Bureau of Community Program and Licensure under the Quality Assurance deputate. DOH started licensing home care agencies in 2011. Since that date there has been no data analysis of how licensure has impacted care across the state. This data analysis will focus on the number of home care licenses that have been issued, utilized, terminated or lapsed since 2011 as well as the number of people served. The analysis will be broken down by agency type, the region served and county where each agency is located. This analysis will also include if the agency receives private pay only or if it is a waiver agency.

Public Health Impact: To date there has been no data analysis on the effects of home care licensure in Pennsylvania. This report will be the first step in helping DOH to identify the types of agencies receiving licenses and where DOH home care licensure has increased and decreased. This data can then be matched with population data to target areas in the state that may need additional home care. The DOH can then target resources to help prospective home care agencies expand into areas where they are most needed.

Expertise/Skills/Competencies:

- Computer skills: working knowledge of Excel and Adobe
- Understanding of principles of data analysis, program analysis and its use in establishing health care policy
- Qualitative and Quantitative Research Skills