Pittsburgh Summer Institute in Applied Public Health

Overview

Introduction

The Pittsburgh Summer Institute in Applied Public Health provides students who have completed at least one year of graduate studies in public health or health sciences with an experiential learning opportunity. Students explore the day-to-day operations of a local health department and complete a project that addresses a public health need in a medically underserved community within the Department’s service area while working under the close supervision of a public health practitioner.

In addition to work experience, students participate in weekly seminars focused on approaches to public health problem solving and become acquainted with at least two health department program areas (e.g. food inspection, maternal and child health, infectious disease clinics, air quality control). Students also attend Board of Health or County Council meetings in order to become familiar with public health policy development and implementation.

Partners

For over 50 years, the Allegheny County Health Department has been responsible for protecting the health of the residents of Allegheny County. Located in southwestern Pennsylvania, Allegheny County is the second largest urban area in the Commonwealth and includes 130 individual municipalities as well as the city of Pittsburgh. ACHD serves a population of approximately 1.2 million and provides programs in family health; infectious diseases; chronic disease and injury prevention; public drinking water and waste management; housing and community environment; food protection; and air quality to address community needs.

The Pennsylvania Public Health Training Center is based at the Graduate School of Public Health and is operated in partnership with Drexel University School of Public Health and the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford Center for Rural Health Practice. It is part of the national network of public health training centers funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration. PAPHTC strengthens Pennsylvania’s public health infrastructure by developing and delivering training opportunities that meet the assessed needs of the workforce.

Past Projects

- Investigation of foodborne disease outbreaks
- Evaluation of risk factors for infant mortality
- Program operation and data analysis for the Allegheny County Child Death Review Team
- Assessment of the severity of illness among hospitalized patients with 2009 H1N1 influenza

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Overview, Continued

**Internship Requirements**
- Complete a 200 hour / 10 week internship
- Attend weekly seminars (weeks 1-6)
- Become acquainted with at least 2 different programs
- Participate in at least one inspection (e.g. food safety, air quality, housing)
- Attend one Board of Health or County Council meeting
- Complete a project that addresses a specific public health need of a medically underserved community within the Department’s service area
- Present an overview of the completed project at the conclusion of the Institute

**Qualifications**
- Applicants must have completed one year of graduate level studies
- Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Applicants must be in good academic standing

**Application Process**
A completed application and all supporting documents must be received on or before the application deadline. Please send all documents in one E-mail. A personal interview with ACHD staff is also required.

**Supporting Documentation**
- Completed application
- Resume or CV that lists both paid and volunteer experiences
- Personal statement: a narrative limited to 600 words that expresses your interest in the Pittsburgh Summer Institute and your long term goals
- An unofficial transcript

**Application Deadline**
The Application Deadline is March 29, 2013

**Contact Information**
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