SUMMER RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

RUTGERS HEALTH
Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research

OVERVIEW

The Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research (IFH) Summer Research Internship Program is designed for undergraduate/graduate students interested in public health, biomedical or social science research. This program is a **10-week internship opportunity** for qualified students who would like to gain hands-on, guided and practical experience on a project related to the interdisciplinary areas of research at IFH. While IFH represents a variety of research focuses, candidates interested in health disparities in diverse racial/ethnic populations are encouraged to apply.

Over the course of 10 weeks, you will:
- Gain hands-on research experience working on a research project led by a faculty mentor, meeting with mentors at least once per week
- Receive general mentorship and guidance from your faculty mentor about your research career
- Attend in-person seminars to network with peers and faculty at the Institute for Health in New Brunswick, NJ (not required, but encouraged)

Participation in this summer internship will begin the week of June 9 and culminate in a final presentation the week of August 11 based on the individual's research project. Participants are welcome to take additional summer classes and/or hold other employment during the program period. The expected time commitment is a minimum of 20 hours per week. A stipend will be provided.

ELIGIBILITY

- **Undergraduate or graduate students in the U.S. majoring in public health, biomedical, social sciences, social work, public policy, health economics, or a related field**

- **Ability to commit to 20+ hours per week from June 9-August 15**

TO APPLY

Please click the link below to upload the following materials by April 6, 2025:

- **Resume or CV**
- **1-page cover letter outlining why you are interested in research and which research project you are most interested in pursuing *(see 2nd & 3rd pages for options)***

APPLY

The Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, within Rutgers Health, is a hub for multidisciplinary and translational research in the areas of behavioral health, health services, health disparities, health policy, health economics, pharmacoepidemiology, and aging research. Since its 1985 founding by Dr. David Mechanic, the Institute has become nationally renowned for meaningful and impactful work in population health research. The Institute continues to build on this legacy while preserving the interdisciplinary structure and dynamic that makes it truly unique.

MENTOR LED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Through this program, all interns will be working alongside an assigned mentor on one their mentor's current projects. Types of responsibilities will vary across projects, depending on intern's previous experience and what is needed to advance the mentor's research. **Applicants are required to indicate their preferred project in their cover letter. Please choose one out of the following 9 options.**

1

State mental health program evaluation: The intern will work with faculty to collect and analyze qualitative interview data as part of an evaluation of New Jersey mental health initiatives including crisis response services, 9-8-8, mental health first aid, and law enforcement diversion programs. This project will culminate in development of a report for the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; there may also be opportunity for development of a manuscript to be submitted for peer review.

2

The intern will support research projects examining neighborhood and interpersonal factors (e.g., social isolation) and their impact on physical and cognitive health among older adults. The intern will have opportunities to engage in various activities, including literature review, data analyses, manuscript writing, and data management.

3

The intern will support projects broadly focused on increasing equitable access to evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder in key settings: emergency departments, residential treatment programs, and community-based recovery homes. Work will include coordinating, conducting, and analyzing qualitative interviews with key informants; collecting and analyzing survey data; literature review and manuscript preparation; and analyzing more complex health care administrative data (e.g., electronic health records, health care claims).

4

Causal mediation analysis of education and dementia: This project uses sociospatial inequality and public health infrastructure data linked with the national aging cohort to understand midlife geographic and individual pathways linking education and dementia. The intern will engage in data compilation/linkage, analyses, and writing papers. Candidates with prior exposure to and interest in population health, social epidemiology, causal inference methods preferred.

5

Support various population health and health equity research projects aimed at improving outcomes for populations served by Rutgers and its clinical partners. Examples include: Implementing and evaluating interventions to enhance cancer screening and chronic disease management; Participating in the Office's learning health system research projects; Contributing to and analyzing the Office's population health education, communication, and community service-learning initiatives. Projects can be tailored to align with the intern's research interests. This is a hybrid opportunity – with required in-person days on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Interns will also have the opportunity to participate in Office of Population Health team meetings.

More options ↓

MENTOR LED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Applicants are required to indicate their preferred project in their cover letter. Please choose one.

6

Support data analysis and literature review for studies in digital health and neuropsychology, with opportunity to continue after the summer ends. Students with prior statistics and programming skills preferred. Projects may include: 1) Predicting fatigue levels in individuals with Long Covid and multiple sclerosis using a wearable sensor. Knowledge of time series analyses, machine learning, and Python required. 2) Predicting neuropsychological test performance based on digital voice biomarkers. Knowledge of natural language processing, machine learning and Python required. 3) Harmonizing data across 3 population-based cognitive aging studies. Knowledge of structural equation modeling, item response theory, and R programming required.

7

The intern will support research focusing on the surveillance of zoonotic diseases in high-risk environments by identifying emerging strains and transmission patterns and integrating epidemiological, environmental, and laboratory data for improved risk assessment and outbreak prediction.

8

Our project will leverage a linkage between health system cancer registries and electronic health records to describe the characteristics, cancer treatments, healthcare utilization, and health outcomes of cancer survivors. We will also identify disparities in care and outcomes and summarize strategies that may be used to mitigate these disparities. The research applies to trainees interested in biostatistics, health services research, and/or population health. Project roles and responsibilities will be based on the interests, knowledge, and skills of the trainee.

9

Women's Cancer Screening, Early Detection, and Timely Diagnosis in Sub-Saharan Africa: Intern will assist with data entry, management, and analysis and may have the opportunity to present a related abstract and potential co-authorship for a journal article. Current projects investigate breast and cervical cancer screening uptake and cancer diagnostic and treatment pathways in healthcare settings in both Botswana and Tanzania. Qualifications include: Strong personal initiative, Attention to detail, Ability to work independently, Oral and written communication and problem-solving skills, Must be fluent in English, Coursework in global health, public health, and/or epidemiology, Interest in women's health and/or cancer, Preferred prior human subjects research experience and data management.

Please reach out to internship@ifh.rutgers.edu
with questions

APPLY