UD Partnership for Healthy Communities Fall 2021 Opportunities:

**SHIP Student Fellow(s)**

**2 Positions Available**

The mission of the [UD Partnership for Healthy Communities (PHC)](http://www.ud.edu) is to align and strengthen University of Delaware research, educational, and service capabilities to improve the health and well-being of Delaware communities and beyond through effective community partnerships. Additionally, it is the goal of the partnership to contribute to the personal, educational, and career development of University of Delaware students. To that end, PHC is offering a student practicum experience as part of PHC’s contracted project management of the Delaware State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) for the Delaware Division of Public Health.

**Project: Delaware State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)**

The purpose of the State Health Improvement Plan is to describe how the Division of Public Health within Delaware Health and Social Services and the community it serves will work together to improve the health of Delaware's population. Communities, stakeholders, and partners can use the SHIP to set priorities, direct the use of resources, and develop and implement projects, programs and policies. The SHIP’s four priority areas, identified through a State Health Needs Assessment (SHNA) process, are: chronic disease, maternal and child health, substance use disorder and mental health. System-wide recommendations call for policy, systems and environmental change, strategies to address the social determinants of health, the promotion of health in all policies, and the incorporation of social marketing. As we approach year 4 of the 5-year plan, SHIP Student Fellows will help prepare the Delaware SHIP project for a new State Health Needs Assessment that can guide and inform the development of a new five-year SHIP plan.

SHIP Student Fellows will:

1. Conduct an environmental scan of needs assessments conducted by SHIP stakeholder groups and summarize key takeaways/themes, indicating which SHIP priority areas were addressed, which populations and geographic areas were represented, and then conducting a gap analysis using an equity lens to help inform primary data collection needed moving forward as part of a health equity-centered State Health Needs Assessment (SHNA)
2) Draft a state health profile describing DE demographics and where the state stands with regards to health, equity and social determinants as compared to the U.S. and other states
3) Develop draft list of key SHIP indicators
4) Compile and collect additional secondary data that may reveal health inequities and groups most disproportionately impacted by specific health indicators
5) Attend individual stakeholder meetings to observe and record progress

Final deliverable(s): Written narratives and spreadsheets as appropriate, as well as powerpoint to be presented by students to the DPH SHIP Team and SHIP stakeholders as appropriate.

SHIP Fellowship Responsibilities:

○ Fellows are required to attend orientation training and weekly check-ins/ discussion.
○ Fellows are required to complete an environmental scan, gap analysis, and state health profile
○ Fellows are required to attend some stakeholder meetings and observe and input data into the SHIP Team Assessment Tool (STAT) on which they will be trained to use
○ Fellows are required to assist with daily SHIP Partnership activities as needed.
○ Fellows are required to develop, coordinate and present materials to the DPH SHIP Team and additional stakeholders as appropriate at the end of their fellowship

SHIP Fellowship Learning Objectives:

Throughout the semester, fellows will work on projects that will help them understand and engage in activities involved in conducting a health needs assessment to guide the development of a health improvement plan for population health improvement. Fellows will:

○ Gain a deeper understanding of basic concepts in public health
○ Explore current Delaware SHIP priority health areas (i.e. chronic disease, maternal and child health, substance use disorder, mental health, social determinants of health)
○ Collecting and analyze health status data
○ Collect and analyze stakeholder and community input data
○ Summarize, present and communicate findings
○ Utilize skills to communicate effectively with a variety of stakeholders

Fellowship Benefits

○ Fellows will participate in meetings, networking events, and have the opportunity to interact with SHIP Partners from health and non-health sectors
○ Paid rate of $12.50/hour
○ Time commitment of 5-10 hrs/week throughout entire 2021 fall semester

Desired Qualifications:

○ Minimum 2.9 GPA
○ Open to students who are actively enrolled as UD undergraduates. First year graduate students may also be considered.
○ Classroom or work experience related to public health
○ Excellent oral and written communication skills
○ Ability to comprehend, analyze and interpret complex online and printed material
○ Task-oriented, able to work independently and self-starting
○ Working knowledge of Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Powerpoint and/or Google Docs, Sheets and Slides

Application Procedure

Interested students should apply via the PHC application form, including uploading resume (including GPA) and cover letter no later than Aug. 4, 2021. Please describe in your cover letter why you believe you would be a good fit for the position.