



Internship Program Frequently Asked Questions

What projects do interns work on?

Interns work on a wide variety of projects in many different public health disciplines. Each internship experience is so different that our interns may work on projects ranging from writing reports, designing communications materials, working with members of the community, to analyzing and collecting data. Ultimately, a typical day as a CDPH intern provides valuable career experience and helps build the skills that are necessary for success in a public health workplace.

What internships are available?

Internship availability varies based on current needs and capacity. A number of programs regularly host interns that focus on health statistics, chronic disease, infectious disease, maternal/child health, public health administration, nutrition education, and health equity. To learn more about CDPH's work, visit the [CDPH homepage](#) and select the "programs" tab.

Am I eligible for an internship?

We offer internships suitable for graduate and undergraduate students of all skill levels. Many of our interns have little or no experience working in the public health field. We place interns from many academic disciplines. Although most of our interns study Public Health, Health Sciences, and other related majors, internships are often available for students with other concentrations. We work with Master of Public Health practicum candidates from a variety of universities. Internships may even be available to recent college graduates.

Are paid internships available?

A number of paid internships may be available. CDPH partners with University Enterprises Incorporated (UEI) to pay many of our California State University interns. Interns who are paid through UEI may be required to demonstrate proof of enrollment in a UEI affiliated school. Other interns may be compensated with academic credit towards a degree program. Many of our interns also work with us on a volunteer basis to gain job skills and experience working in the public health field.

Are virtual and onsite internships available?

Virtual and onsite internship opportunities are available. Most onsite CDPH internships are located at our East End Campus in Downtown Sacramento. We also place interns at our campuses in Richmond, Natomas (North Sacramento), and field offices throughout the state.



When can I start an internship?

Internships are offered on a continuing basis throughout the year. The largest groups of interns are placed during the beginning of each academic semester term (fall, spring, and summer). Internships usually last 12-14 weeks, but arrangements can sometimes be made to accommodate shorter or longer internships.

Can CDPH work with my schedule?

Supervisors are generally able to work with an intern's school or other work schedule. Internship schedules vary, but are generally between Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Weekly hour limits may apply due to State and Federal labor regulations.

Does CDPH offer Health Care internships?

CDPH is a public health department. Although we do have a number of programs that work in enforcing many of California's Health Care regulations, most of our work focuses on population health rather than the delivery of care. As a public health department, we are responsible for protecting the public, promoting wellness, and preventing disease, injury, disability, and death.

Does CDPH work directly with communities?

Yes, many CDPH programs work directly with clients and communities. A large amount of our work focuses on making an impact through partnering with local health departments and nonprofit agencies. CDPH interns, may gain experience working with a variety of different stakeholders including communities, external partners, and, partners inside of State Government. Because many of CDPH's programs operate on a large scale, the direct work with clients and communities is often facilitated by our local and nonprofit partners.

Is there a dress code?

While there is not a formal dress code, our offices typically dress business-casual. Interns are advised to avoid short skirts, logo t-shirts, and torn clothing.

For questions about applying for internships at the California Department of Public Health, please email CDPHInternships@cdph.ca.gov.