



Summer Research Internship Program

June 3 – August 9, 2019



Program Description

The Department of Native Hawaiian Health’s Summer Research Internship (SRI) is a 10-week program that provides diverse undergraduate students the opportunity to learn and apply research skills from a health disparities framework. Interns conduct a clinical, community-based, or translational research study while being mentored by an expert researcher. Research projects typically focus on a health condition that disproportionately impacts Native Hawaiians and/or Pacific Islanders. Interns also participate in weekly research lectures, professional development seminars, informal talks, physician shadowing, and cultural activities that enhance their understanding of how culture impacts health and well-being. Interns complete a written project report describing their work, and present their findings at a scientific presentation held during the last week of the program.

Purpose

The program is designed to expose diverse students to clinical, community-based, or translational research in health-disparities in order to:

- 1) Improve research and professional skills
- 2) Reinforce the interns’ desire to include research in their professional careers
- 3) Increase knowledge of health-disparities research and interns’ desire to include it in their professional careers
- 4) Increase diversity in the future research workforce

Research Project

Each student is matched with a research mentor, who helps the intern develop a clinical, community-based, or translational research project. Every effort will be made to consider the student’s interests and qualifications when mentors are assigned. While the intern has the ability to choose a project of interest to them, it must be done within the scope of the mentor’s available data (either from the mentor’s research project or a public dataset).

The intern is responsible for coordinating and carrying out all tasks necessary to accomplish project objectives, under the direction of their mentor and SRI program staff. The specific duties to accomplish each project vary; however, a typical research project has the following tasks, some or all of which may be done by the intern:

- Conduct a literature review and summarize the findings.
- Formulate a research question and design a study to address this question.
- Collect, enter, and validate study data.
- Analyze data (with assistance), applying appropriate statistical tests and interpreting the results.
- Prepare a final report including the documentation of study methods, analysis of findings, and impact on future research.
- Present research project and results to an audience of health care professionals and non-professionals, using appropriate audio-visual aids.

While not required, interns are encouraged to submit their final paper for publication.

Curriculum

Students are required to attend a rigorous research curriculum, which includes weekly formal research lectures, informal talks, professional development seminars, medical education experiences, cultural activities, and tours of various research and medical facilities. **Interns must commit to being present for a 40-hour workweek Monday to Friday 8 am to 5 pm, thus summer coursework, employment, or other activities that interfere with this schedule are not allowed.** See Frequently Asked Questions for more information on curriculum topics.

An optional overnight cultural activity is typically offered, which may vary year to year. This overnight cultural activity helps interns to grasp the importance of considering culture in health and health research, while providing an opportunity to strengthen social support. Past interns have reported that the relationships formed during SRI have helped them to successfully navigate through their academic and professional careers.

Compensation

Interns are awarded a modest \$2,000 stipend for the summer. Interns are not provided food, housing, or per diem funding. Though not guaranteed, interns may have the opportunity to apply for additional funding to complete their projects, publish their paper, and/or to travel to a conference to present their findings.

Application

Applications are due Friday February 15, 2018 by 5 pm HST. A complete application must include an Application Form, Transcripts from all undergraduate coursework (unofficial transcripts are accepted), two Letters of Recommendation, and a Resume or Curriculum Vitae.

Selection

Interns are competitively selected and **must be US Citizens and either current Hawai'i residents or nonresidents with already-secured housing placement for the duration of the SRI program.** Preference is given to applicants with good academic record, a commitment to learn more about clinical, community-based or translational research in health disparities, an interest in a career in the health sciences (medicine, psychology, public health, etc.), an interest in health-disparities research, and/or who come from diverse backgrounds (see Diverse Backgrounds section below for additional clarification). Prior research experience strengthens an application but is not required. All applicants should be mature, hardworking, motivated, and aware that research often takes many hours of tedious work to produce results.

Diverse Backgrounds

- A. Individuals from racial and ethnic backgrounds that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be under-represented in health sciences. This includes Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.
- B. Individuals with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- C. Individuals from financially and/or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as
 - a. Individuals whose families are at or below annual low-income thresholds set by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.
 - b. Individuals who come from an educational environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the required knowledge and skills to develop and participate in a research career.
 - c. Individuals who are the first generation in their family to attend a 4-year college or university.

Notice of Selection

Applicants will begin being notified via email in mid March 2019 and will continue until all available spots are full.

Contact Information:

Phone: (808) 692-1078

Fax: (808) 692-1292

Email: dnhhsri@hawaii.edu



Frequently Asked Questions:

- 1) My school ends later than the SRI start date, can I still participate?
 - a. Usually yes, although it will depend how late your anticipated start date is. You will be expected to make up all course work and will still need to present your poster on the last date of the program.
- 2) My school begins prior to the SRI end date, can I still participate?
 - a. Typically no if it means you will not be present on the final day of the program. Interns are required to present their posters on the last day of the program.
- 3) What if I don't meet the definition of diverse background; can I still apply?
 - a. Yes! We encourage all interested students to apply regardless of background.
- 4) Will I be considered for the program if I don't have a background in a health sciences field?
 - a. Yes; however it would be in your best interest to make sure your application demonstrates your knowledge of scientific research methods and interest in the health sciences as a career.
- 5) Does the program provide housing?
 - a. No and the program does not assist in coordinating housing.
- 6) I've missed the deadline, can I apply anyway?
 - a. No, but as long as you will still be enrolled as an undergraduate student we welcome and encourage you to apply next year.
- 7) How do I know if my application was successfully received?
 - a. You will receive a confirmation email from program staff once your **complete** application is received. If you have not received an email from us confirming receipt, either it is incomplete or we did not receive it.
- 8) How many interns are selected?
 - a. We typically have 5 interns; however this is subject to change without prior notification.
- 9) If selected, when do I have to decide if I'm going to participate in this program?
 - a. Selected interns are encouraged to respond ASAP; however interns have until March 30th or 1 week after notification of selection (whichever comes later).
- 10) How is the stipend paid?
 - a. The stipend is paid after the successful completion of the program. Because the program spans two fiscal years, the full stipend amount is divided into two separate checks. Taxes are not calculated or withheld, thus it is up to the intern to calculate and pay appropriate taxes on the money received. If the checks are

not available on the last day of the internship they are mailed to the intern as soon as possible thereafter.

11) What kinds of lectures and activities does the program provide?

- a. The program provides formal lectures on a wide variety research topics, including, but not limited to ethics (responsible conduct of research, misconduct, HIPAA, Human Subjects, IRB, authorship, etc.), research methodology (formulating a research question, study design, data management, statistics, analysis, etc.), professional development (writing and presenting your research, research leadership, successful research collaborations, graduate school applications, etc.), and cultural aspects of health (social determinants of health, cultural trauma, bias and sources of error, etc.). Informal talks further immerse interns in cultural influences on health and research and provide experiential learning experiences (problem based learning, Native Hawaiian perspectives on health, life and death, mock interviews, etc.). Weekly group seminar provides peer support and the ability to collectively problem solve learning and research project barriers. Group seminar also further enhances professional skills by focusing on topics such as professional goal attainment planning, building resilience, stress management and preventing burnout, effective communication, and developing your leadership style. Cultural activities help interns to understand the influence of culture on health and research through experiential practice of Native Hawaiian health practices (practicing traditional methods of planting healthy food, caring for a medicinal garden, caring for a fish pond, following traditional protocol, etc.), visiting sacred places, providing community service, and interacting with elders. Physician shadowing experiences and tours of Queen's Hospital and JABSOM facilities serve to familiarize and expose interns to clinical and academic environments.