Kentucky Department for Public Health Student Internship Catalog Spring 2026

Internship Dates between January 12 - May 15, 2026

Application Closes on Nov. 10, 2025







Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning

Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: Historic Enteric Diseases Data Summaries

- Branch: Infectious Disease Branch
- Open to: Masters
- Supervisor: Jennifer Khoury, MPH, Foodborne/Waterborne Epidemiologist II
- **Desired Skills**: Computer skills (Microsoft *Excel*), database familiarity (REDCap), analytic skills, time management, ability to work independently and detail-oriented.
- Setting: Virtual, Hybrid
- Project Description: The Reportable Disease Section is seeking an intern to assist with entering historic enteric disease case and
 exposure data into a REDCap database. Under the guidance of the foodborne/waterborne epidemiologists, the intern will analyze
 data to describe case distribution and common exposures by pathogen. These findings will be summarized in pathogen-specific
 reports that will be shared with Regional Epidemiologists and ultimately utilized for informing future enteric disease cluster
 investigations.
- Project Deliverable 1: Back-fill and manage historic enteric disease data in REDCap database.
- Project Deliverable 2: Conduct analyses using historic enteric disease data to describe case distribution and identify exposures
 commonly reported for each pathogen.
- Project Deliverable 3: Develop reports to summarize findings for sharing with enteric disease staff and Regional Epidemiologists.
- Application Link: Click Here to Apply

Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: <u>Legal and Regulatory Summary of Laws Supporting Vital & Public Health Data Sharing In Kentucky</u>

- Branch: Division Office/Other
- Open to: Associates, Bachelors
- Supervisor: Dr. Courtney Walker, Population Health Data Unit Manager
- **Desired Skills**: Enrolled in or recently completed studies in public health, health policy, health informatics, law (especially health law), or related fields, strong research ability (statutes, regulations, policy documents), good writing skills; ability to distill complex legal texts, attention to detail and ability to verify sources, some background or familiarity with public health systems, data privacy, or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) is a plus.
- Setting: Hybrid
- Project Description: To research, analyze and produce a comprehensive summary of applicable Kentucky state laws,
 administrative regulations and other policies (plus relevant federal law) that govern data sharing for vital statistics, disease
 surveillance, immunizations, lab reporting, public health registries and similar public health data uses.
- Project Deliverable 1: A written report (e.g., ~10-15 pages) summarizing laws, regulations, gaps and recommendations.
- Project Deliverable 2: An executive summary/ one pager for leadership.
- Project Deliverable 3: Tables or matrices summarizing data types vs legal constraints vs permitted uses.
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: Public Health Promotion & Conference Planning

Branch: Division Office

Open to: Associates, Bachelors

Supervisor: Jenika Andrew, Workforce Development Coordinator

- **Desired Skills**: Enrolled in or recently graduated from a program in Public Health, Health Communication, Public Administration, Event Management or a related field, strong organizational and written communication skills, interest in health promotion, community outreach or public health education; ability to work independently and collaboratively in a professional setting and familiarity with event planning or communications tools (e.g., Canva, Adobe, etc.) is a plus but not required.
- Setting: Hybrid
- Project Description: The Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH), Division of Epidemiology & Health Planning, is seeking a highly
 motivated intern to assist with public health promotion initiatives and conference/ event planning. This internship offers a unique
 opportunity to gain hands-on experience in health communications, outreach strategies and the logistical coordination of public healthfocused events. The intern will support KDPH's mission to promote health equity, increase community awareness of public health issues and
 facilitate knowledge-sharing among professionals through educational programming and stakeholder engagement.
- Project Deliverable 1: Development and/or revision of public health promotion materials.
- Project Deliverable 2: Support documentation for conference planning (checklists, outreach lists, timelines).
- Project Deliverable 3: Conference marketing and communication drafts (email campaigns, flyers).
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: Reportable Diseases Centralized Interviewing Team

- Branch: Infectious Disease Branch
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters
- Supervisor: Morgan Smith, MPH, CPH, Epidemiologist III
- Desired Skills: Computer skills (Microsoft Excel), experience with programs such as REDCap and Geographic Information Systems (GIS),
 interview/communication skills, data entry/management skills, analytic skills, time management, ability to work independently and detailoriented.
- Setting: In-Person, Hybrid
- **Project Description**: The Reportable Diseases Section is seeking 1-2 interns to work with the Centralized Interviewing Team at the Kentucky Department for Public Health in the Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning. This is an excellent opportunity to gain applied epidemiology experience. Interns will be cross-trained to conduct case-patient interviews for enteric conditions and vector-borne conditions. Additional job roles will include performing data collection and data entry. Interns may also assist with outbreak investigations.
- Project Deliverable 1: Conduct case-patient interviews for enteric conditions and/or vector-borne conditions.
- Project Deliverable 2: Collect disease exposure data and enter data into the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) and REDCap projects.
- Project Deliverable 3: Assist with descriptive data analyses projects for enteric disease and/or vector-borne disease data.
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning: Viral Hepatitis Surveillance

- Branch: Infectious Disease Branch
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters
- Supervisor: Dia Obonyo, DrPH, Viral Hepatitis Program Lead
- Desired Skills: Canva, Microsoft Office (PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook), Analytic Skills (descriptive statistics) and Research Methodology (literature review).
- Setting: Virtual
- Project Description: This project focuses on creating a full spectrum report and presentation for hepatitis B and C coinfection worldwide, the United States and in Kentucky. Additionally, the intern will attend relevant hepatitis-related work meetings and calls to help give background information and context for hepatitis.
- Project Deliverable 1: Literature review of hepatitis B and C coinfection.
- Project Deliverable 2: Description of hepatitis B and C coinfection in Kentucky using descriptive statistics.
- Project Deliverable 3: Creation of a hepatitis B and C coinfection fact sheet using Canva.
- Application Link: Click Here to Apply

Division of Laboratory Services

Division of Laboratory Services: Introduction to Microbiological Assays at DLS

- Branch: Microbiology Branch
- Open to: Associates, Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate
- Supervisor: Sarah Preston, M.S., Public Health Laboratory Scientist Manager
- Desired Skills: Computer skills including Microsoft 365 Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Teams), background in Microbiology, Biology, Chemistry, or Public Health.
- **Setting**: In-Person
- Project Description: This internship will provide a full, hands-on testing role in the Microbiology Branch. The Sections: Virology, Bacteriology and Sequencing within the Division of Laboratory Services (DLS); perform various testing methods to detect and identify bacterial and viral pathogens, including enzyme immunoassays (EIA), polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and whole genome sequencing. This position will learn to perform testing for infections, in which state-of-the-art technology is used to detect illness to ensure treatment is completed as quickly as possible, thereby eliminating or reducing the devastating effects, which could include permanent physical/mental disability or death. The candidate will learn how to perform both routine serological methods, as well as high complexity testing, including both automated and manual molecular PCR testing. Microbiology testing at DLS is mandated by multiple statutes, which require our ability to test and investigate infections, including, but not limited to, hepatitis, HIV, syphilis, influenza, COVID, Tuberculosis, STIs, foodborne organisms and many more. Testing and analysis support the Kentucky Department for Public Health's (KDPH) mission to improve the health and safety of Kentuckians. Candidates will be exposed to the stringent laboratory accreditation requirements of both the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA).
- Project Deliverable 1: Receiving, assessing quality, and accessioning various types of specimens for microbiological analysis.
- Project Deliverable 2: Preparing specimens and instrumentation for testing, running quality control and calibrations, performing routine daily, weekly and monthly maintenance. Troubleshooting and requesting service.
- Project Deliverable 3: Perform multiple types of testing for viral and bacterial detection and identification.
- Application Link: Click Here to Apply

Division of Laboratory Services: Introduction to Newborn Screening Testing

- Branch: Molecular and Clinical Chemistry Branch (Newborn Screening Branch)
- Open to: Associates, Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate
- Supervisor: Darrin Sevier, Public Health Laboratory Scientist Supervisor
- Desired Skills: Computer skills including Microsoft 365 Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Teams), background in Biology, Chemistry, Microbiology, or Public Health.
- **Setting**: In-Person
- **Project Description**: This internship will provide a full, hands-on testing role in the Newborn Screening Branch of the Division of Laboratory Services. The Molecular and Biomedical Engineering Section performs tandem mass spectrometry analysis, real-time polymerase chain reaction analysis and DNA mutation analysis for the KY Newborn Screening Program. This position will learn to perform testing for inborn errors of metabolism, in which state-of-the-art technology is used to detect genetic disorders in newborns.
- Project Deliverable 1: Receiving, assess quality, accessioning and punching newborn screen dried blood spot specimens.
- Project Deliverable 2: Preparing specimens and instrumentation for testing, running quality control and calibrations, performing routine daily, weekly and monthly maintenance. Troubleshooting and requesting service.
- Project Deliverable 3: Performing testing for endocrine, metabolic, Cystic Fibrosis mutation analysis, etc. Complete validations, comparisons, linearity studies.
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Division of Laboratory Services: Workplace Support Resources Development

- Branch: Global Preparedness Environmental Branch
- Open to: Associates, Bachelors, Masters
- Supervisor: Leigh Ann Bates, Public Health Laboratory Scientist
- Desired Skills: Computer skills including Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel) and Canva or similar software.
- Setting: Hybrid
- Project Description: The Global Preparedness and Environmental Branch is looking for an intern to develop resources for health
 departments, hospital laboratories and other healthcare facilities. The intern will also assist in creating safety guidelines for
 Biosafety Laboratory operations and assist scientists with workshop creation. Laboratory background is helpful but not required.
- Project Deliverable 1: Utilize Canva or other similar tools to create job aids to promote best practices for shipping samples to the KY Division of Laboratory Services.
- Project Deliverable 2: Update current job aids and documents procedures for biosafety 3 laboratory work.
- Project Deliverable 3: Assist scientists and leadership with creating presentations and workshop materials for KY hospital laboratories. This may include packaging and shipping training and sentinel laboratory workshops in a box.
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Division of Maternal and Child Health

Division of Maternal and Child Health: Quality Improvement for Birth Defects Surveillance

- **Branch**: Program Support Branch
- Open to: Masters, Doctorate
- Supervisor: Emily Ferrell, DrPH, CPH, Epidemiologist
- **Desired Skills**: Data analysis and interpretation, descriptive statistics only, ability to use and access to SAS, SPSS, or R (SAS code available from supervisor). Proficiency with analytic capabilities of Excel may substitute, professional communication using Microsoft Office products, database familiarity (data aggregation, cleaning or standardization of data), optional background in genetics, clinical medicine, nursing or medical coding.
- **Setting**: Hybrid
- **Project Description**: The Kentucky Birth Surveillance Registry (KBSR) is undertaking a project to understand the role that vital statistics data play in birth defects surveillance. This project will compare birth defects reported on live birth and stillbirth certificates with those reported by hospitals and laboratories. The project will also utilize death and stillbirth certificate data to better understand the severity of birth defects and their impact on child fatality. The goal of this project is to develop recommendations for technical assistance with reporting, data quality assurance and prevention of birth defects related morbidity/mortality.
- Project Deliverable 1: The intern will clean and analyze birth defects data for the purpose of characterizing the sample by diagnoses, demographics, risk factors and geography.
- Project Deliverable 2: The intern will develop recommendations for technical assistance with reporting, data quality assurance and prevention of birth defects related morbidity/mortality.
- Project Deliverable 3: The intern will create written deliverables, such as presentations or fact sheets, to inform various audiences of the project findings, conclusions and recommendations.
- Application Link: Click Here to Apply

Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement

Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement: CARE Self-Measured Blood Pressure Project (SMBP)

- Branch: Chronic Disease Prevention Branch
- Open to: Bachelors
- Supervisor: Jennie Morehead, Task Force Coordinator and Natalie Littlefield, MPH, SMBP Program Director
- **Desired Skills**: Health Education background, computer skills and desire to work with community members in both class format and one to one settings.
- Setting: Hybrid
- **Project Description**: The Student needs to be from Murray State University and will help our team to implement a project focused on blood pressure improvement and education. The Student will help us to identify a community partner in Murray, KY to host CARE SMBP Program classes. The Student will also collaborate with Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (HDSP) staff on their 2304 CDC Grant.
- Project Deliverable 1: Student will attend HDSP virtual team meetings to share updates on CARE SMBP project status and plan future community-based organization activities as outlined in HDSP's 2304 CDC Grant.
- Project Deliverable 2: Student will ensure frequent communication with community partners in Murray to troubleshoot any
 questions or changes needed to Spring 2026 partnership activities and share meeting notes with HDSP team.
- Project Deliverable 3: Student will facilitate blood pressure programming with community partners in Murray and provide support in collecting deidentified data relating to SDOH and blood pressure from program participants.
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement: Lung Cancer Screening Program (LCSP) Operations and Data

- Branch: Chronic Disease Prevention Branch
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters
- Supervisor: Nirvana Nawar, Lung Cancer Screening Program Manager
- Desired Skills: Administrative, database familiarity (date aggregation, clean-up/standardization of data bases, matching), Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), Microsoft (SharePoint, Teams), Statistical Software, Google Sheets; REDCap (as applicable); Tableau (Preferred) basic mapping.
- Setting: Virtual, Hybrid
- **Project Description**: The Kentucky Lung Cancer Screening Program (LCSP) seeks an intern to support operations and data activities that advance equitable, high-quality lung cancer screening statewide. The intern will collaborate with the program's epidemiologist on the new LCSP data system, assist with data collection; clean and compile partner/program data (e.g., screening volumes, referrals, outreach); and produce clear visualizations (graphs, charts, simple maps).
- Project Deliverable 1: Data System Support: Work with the Epidemiologist II on the new LCSP data system; perform basic data-quality checks.
- Project Deliverable 2: Data Collection and Management: Assist in data collection (REDCap forms, outreach/event tracking).
- Project Deliverable 3: Analytics and Reporting: Review and clean existing LCSP datasets; identify trends, inequities, outliers and draft concise recommendations.
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement:

Mapping Shared Health Priorities and Collaboration Opportunities Across Kentucky Local Health Departments

• Branch: Division Office/Other

Open to: Masters

• Supervisor: Carrie Conia, KDPH/LHD Technical Assistance Coordinator, HPS II

Desired Skills: Computer skills (Microsoft, Google, other), research methodology, database familiarity and analytic skills

• Setting: Virtual

- **Project Description**: The Office of Performance Improvement and Accreditation (OPIA) seeks an intern to support Public Health Transformation (PHT) initiatives. The intern will work directly with the Kentucky Health Departments Association (KHDA), in partnership with the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) and other collaborators, to identify shared public health priorities across Kentucky's Local Health Departments (LHD) and recommend opportunities for cross-collaboration and strategic support to advance PHT initiatives to improve health outcomes. This project will focus on thematic analysis of data to identify trends and translate data into actionable recommendations for KDPH and LHD action.
- Project Deliverable 1: Summary report of LHD priorities and shared health issues.
- Project Deliverable 2: Thematic map or dashboard of common terminology and collaboration opportunities.
- Project Deliverable 3: Recommendations document for PHT initiatives and KHDA support strategies.
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement: Obesity Task Force

- Branch: Chronic Disease Prevention Branch
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters
- Supervisor: Elizabeth Anderson-Hoagland, MPH, Chronic Disease Prevention Branch Manager
- Desired Skills: Computer Skills Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams) and Canva.
- Setting: Virtual, Hybrid
- **Project Description**: The Chronic Disease Prevention Branch is interested in starting a task force to address the prevention and treatment of obesity in Kentucky. The intern will collect best practices from similar task forces and coalitions, as well as identifying relevant research for the project. This position will assist in the development of the task force, including identifying relevant stakeholders, collecting and analyzing data, assisting and facilitating in the development of mission, vision and goals and logistics of meeting planning.
- Project Deliverable 1: Review and collect best practices from task forces and published literature.
- Project Deliverable 2: Identify potential task force membership, including sectors that need representation.
- Project Deliverable 3: Assist in the creation of a mission and vision for the task force.
- Application Link: Click Here to Apply

Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement: Building Interactive Dashboards and Web Apps in R Shiny

- Branch: Division Office/Other
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters
- Supervisor: Adam Berrones, PhD, Data Analytics Manager/Epidemiologist III
- Desired Skills: R, SAS, Python, SQL, Databases, Analytics
- Setting: Virtual
- **Project Description:** The Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement is seeking a motivated self-starter to assist with coding of dynamic web applications using the R Shiny framework. The student intern will assist with all phases of software development (from planning to maintenance) to obtain invaluable real-world skills in R programming. The primary focus will be leveraging public health related data sources such as Census, EPA, CDC, among others, to build visually pleasing and functional web applications.
- Project Deliverable 1: Student will use version control (GitHub) to track coding changes.
- Project Deliverable 2: Student will build modern interactive dashboards with bslib/shinydashboard/bs4Dash libraries.
- Project Deliverable 3: Student will directly contribute to deploying live web applications.
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Division of Public Health Protection and Safety

Division of Public Health Protection and Safety: Access & Functional Needs Resource Library

- Branch: Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters
- Supervisor: Maria Church, ADAC, Access & Functional Needs Program Coordinator
- **Desired Skills**: Computer skills (Microsoft *Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel,* Statistical Software, GIS), administrative, community-based experience and communication.
- Setting: In-Person, Hybrid
- Project Description: The Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch seeks an intern to assist with federal grant deliverables.
 Kentucky's local health departments (LHDs) develop and annually maintain a resource library of their jurisdictional partners.
 These databases are used during response activities to meet the needs of the whole community following a public health emergency or declared disaster. The intern will communicate with LHD preparedness coordinators and public health staff.
- Project Deliverable 1: Communicate project updates/changes to Kentucky LHDs.
- Project Deliverable 2: Create and update procedures for LHD and public health field staff.
- Project Deliverable 3: Create and distribute reports for LHD and public health field staff.
- Application Link: Click Here to Apply

Division of Public Health Protection and Safety: CHEMPACK and Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Focus

- Branch: Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch
- Open to: Associates, Bachelors, Masters
- Supervisor: Heather Walls, BS, RS, Strategic National Stockpile/Cities Readiness Imitative/CHEMPACK Coordinator
- **Desired Skills**: Computer Skills Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams) and Canva.
- **Setting**: In-Person
- Project Description: Intern will assist with CHEMPACK programmatic planning updates and will have a seat in the CHEMPACK
 Committee meetings. They will also assist with design and facilitation of a Chemical/CHEMPACK tabletop exercise with our Cities
 Readiness Initiative (CRI) jurisdictions.
- Project Deliverable 1: Create a Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) for chain of custody and transport supplies for the CHEMPACK program.
- Project Deliverable 2: Assist with program updates during CHEMPACK Committee meetings.
- Project Deliverable 3: Help to design and facilitate two table-top exercises in our CRI jurisdictions (travel required to Louisville and Northern Kentucky).
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Division of Public Health Protection and Safety: Environmental Health Core Training Module Development

- Branch: Division Office/Other
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate
- Supervisor: Rebecca Gillis, MPH, CHES, REHS, Division Director
- **Desired Skills**: Proficiency with Microsoft Office (*Word, Excel, PPTX, Outlook*), oral and written communication, experience with evaluation methodologies, data aggregation and reporting and familiarity with developing training-related goals and objectives.
- Setting: Hybrid
- Project Description: The student will contribute to the development and management of online Environmental Health Core
 Training Modules using articulate 360, an e-learning platform for creating workplace training. This work involves supporting the
 launch of training content, tracking performance, troubleshooting issues, evaluating training effectiveness and delivering datainformed reports to leadership
- Project Deliverable 1: Learn about various environmental health programs, policies, processes and partnerships and use this
 information to report on assigned projects.
- Project Deliverable 2: Develop, launch and manage environmental health core training modules using Articulate 360.
- Project Deliverable 3: Analyze online training data and provide verbal and/or written reports to leadership.
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Division of Public Health Protection and Safety: Medical Reserve Corps Planning and Logistical Support

- Branch: Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch
- Open to: Associates, Bachelors, Masters
- Supervisor: Madeline Burgess, MRC State Coordinator / Jimmie Hampton, Planning and Readiness Section Supervisor
- Desired Skills: Computer Skills Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams) and Canva, Oral and Written Communication Skills, Community Based Experience
- Setting: In-Person, Hybrid
- Project Description: Student will be placed in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch to support the Medical Reserve
 Corps (MRC) Program. The intern will perform a wide variety of tasks to assist the State MRC Coordinators. The student will
 support the planning and coordination of several important events including the 2026 KY MRC Volunteer Summit, State-Wide
 Volunteer Workgroup Meetings and the semi-annual Unit Coordinator Meeting. These events will take place in 2026 and will
 require additional support.
- Project Deliverable 1: Student will design and develop printed materials to promote upcoming MRC events.
- Project Deliverable 2: Student will provide logistical and organizational support leading up to the MRC events.
- Project Deliverable 3: Student will attend planning meetings and provide meeting minutes to committee members.
- Application Link: Click Here to Apply

Office of the Commissioner

Office of the Commissioner: Grant Ready: Creating Tools to Support Public Health Funding

- Branch: Office/Division Level
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters
- **Supervisor:** Julie McAllister, MHA, Federal Grants Application Specialist
- **Desired Skills:** Strong business communication (verbal and writing) skills, organization and research skills, interest in public health grant work and organizational improvement, proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, Teams, Outlook, familiarity with website design concepts a plus!
- Setting: Virtual
- **Project Description**: This internship provides a hands-on opportunity to strengthen public health funding efforts. The intern will develop practical resources-such as a grant writing toolkit and a centralized grants calendar-to simplify the application process for staff and help leadership coordinate grant-seeking activities. They will also research grant support strategies used by other agencies and offer recommendations for improvement. Throughout the project, the intern will apply quality improvement methods to ensure these tools are user-friendly, effective and easily accessible via the department's intranet.
- Project Deliverable 1: Grant Application/Grant Writing Toolkit
- Project Deliverable 2: KDPH Grants Calendar (Excel tool)
- Project Deliverable 3: Updated "Grants Process" intranet page content
- Application Link: <u>Click Here to Apply</u>

Thank You

Amy Wininger, MS
Student Internship Program Administrator

amy.wininger@ky.gov

(270) 418-7676



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