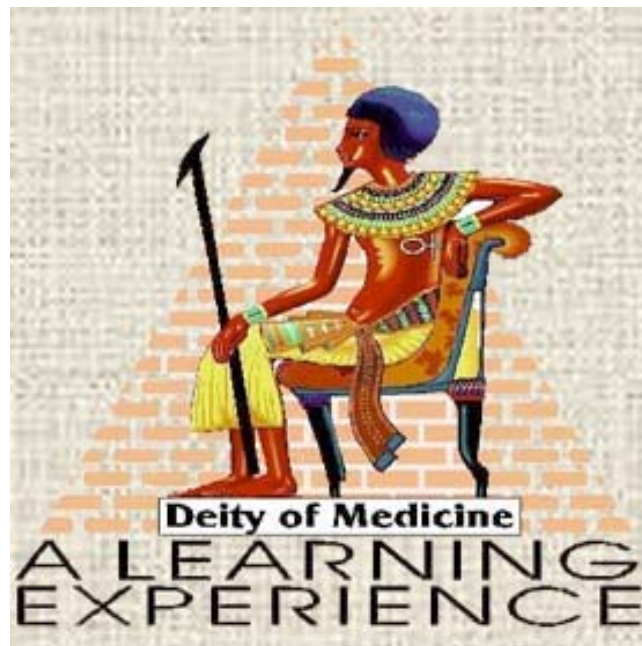




Project: IMHOTEP

A Cooperative Summer Program in Public Health:
Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Occupational Safety & Health



Application Packet



Public health issues have been described as early as biblical times when lepers were cast out from societies for fear of contagion. The health status of populations has been studied for hundreds of years, from early attempts at immunization against smallpox by the Chinese in the 8th Century to the subsequent eradication of the disease in the 20th Century.

PUBLIC HEALTH BACKGROUND

Overall, the health of the American population has improved due to advancements in medical technology, but disparities among minority populations exist and continue to be prevailing causes of concern. In 2000, African American and Hispanic children accounted for 80% of all pediatric AIDS cases. African American and Hispanic women represent 78% of all HIV-infected women, while HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among African American men and women between the ages of 25 and 44 (National Center for Health Statistics, CDC). With regards to cancer screening and management, African Americans have more malignant tumors than the general population and are less likely to survive (American Cancer Society). African Americans are also twice as likely as their counterparts to have type-2 diabetes and suffer from amputations, kidney disease, and other diabetes-related complications (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services).

With these and many more staggering health statistics, it is undeniable that chronic, as well as communicable diseases devastate the entire minority family. What can we do to stop the destruction of these communities? As one response, more minorities need to be trained in the health professions. Thus, programs are a prerequisite to broaden the opportunities and experiences for minority students who wish to enter the public health sciences, in particular, biostatistics, epidemiology, and occupational safety and health.

INTRODUCTION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a federal agency responsible for the nation's efforts "to prevent unnecessary illness and death and enhance the health of the American people." Since its inception in 1946, the agency has been an advocate for the control and prevention of disease and lead such efforts against malaria, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease, and tuberculosis. The mission of the CDC is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury and disability and strives to protect people's health and safety, provide reliable health information, and improve health. Many of these areas of concern include environmental and occupational hazards, behavioral risks, chronic diseases and emerging infectious diseases. CDC accomplishes its mission by working with partners throughout the nation and world to monitor health, detect and investigate health problems, conduct applied research to enhance prevention, develop and advocate sound public health policies, implement prevention strategies, promote healthy behaviors, foster safe and healthful environments, and provide leadership and training.

In an effort to provide training and research opportunities for minorities interested in the health professions, the CDC has entered into a cooperative agreement with Morehouse College to support programs administered by the Public Health Sciences Institute (PHSI). Through this agreement, PHSI administers and supports various educational and research programs including the summer internship program, Project: IMHOTEP.

HISTORY OF PROJECT: IMHOTEP

Project Imhotep began in 1981 under the auspices of an Atlanta University Center (AUC) faculty steering committee. Over the past twenty-four (24) years, nearly 400 students, representing ninety-four different institutions of higher learning, have participated in the program. Interns have been drawn from various underrepresented minority ethnic groups, including African American, Hispanic/Latin American, and Native American, and have come from various regions of the U.S., Caribbean, U.S. Virgin Islands, and East Africa. Interns have been placed at institutions domestically (Alaska, California, Georgia, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Washington) and internationally (Tanzania, East Africa and Oaxaca, Mexico). In the summer of 2004 and 2005, respectively, PHSI placed its first interns with the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Tanzania, East Africa and Mexico Negro in Oaxaca, Mexico.

PROGRAM

Project: IMHOTEP is an eleven-week internship designed to increase the knowledge and skills of rising juniors and seniors and recent graduates of an undergraduate institution in biostatistics, epidemiology, and occupational safety and health. The program begins with two weeks of intense educational training. The purpose of this training is to equip interns with the academic coursework and information necessary to complete the program. During the remaining nine weeks, interns conduct public health research with experts at the CDC, NIMR, Mexico Negro, and various other public health agencies.

Since the inception of Project: IMHOTEP, interns have been placed in various centers, institutes, and offices (CIOs) within the CDC and various domestic and international agencies, including, but not limited to, the:

- National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
- National Center for Health Statistics
- National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention
- National Center for Infectious Diseases
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
- National Institute of Medical Research
- Mexico Negro
- Sister Love, Incorporated

Throughout the program, interns participate in a wide variety of seminars, workshops, and other educational initiatives and must complete a required number of community service hours. Interns receive research support and consultation in data analysis and other project requirements. At the conclusion of the program, interns deliver an oral presentation and submit a written manuscript suitable for publication in a scientific journal.

Interns are required to sign a legal contract, adhering to all rules, regulations, and program requirements. During the program, interns receive a financial stipend, housing (at Morehouse and site location) and a travel allowance (travel allowance includes travel to and from Atlanta, site location, and home residence). Interns are required to pay for all expenses incurred during the two-week training (e.g., books) and other miscellaneous expenses (e.g., food) not outlined here (In FY 2005, this cost totaled approximately \$300)

Due to the demands of the program, PHSI seeks **highly** qualified students. The selection process is very rigorous and extremely competitive. Candidates should have a genuine interest in pursuing a career in public health, with a particular emphasis in biostatistics, epidemiology, or occupational safety and health.



Public Health Sciences Institute

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for expressing interest in Project: IMHOTEP, a summer internship program supported by the Public Health Sciences Institute (PHSI) at Morehouse College and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This internship provides an excellent opportunity for you to explore various aspects of public health including quantitative and qualitative research.

A complete application packet consists of:

1. Completed application forms
2. An official transcript from each college/university attended
3. Two completed recommendation forms
4. Resume
5. Naturalization papers, if applicable

Interns are selected on a very competitive basis; therefore, your application packet should be completed in a timely and accurate manner.

The application deadline for Project: IMHOTEP 2007 is **January 31st**.

For more information, please visit us on the web at: <http://www.morehouse.edu/centers/phsi>

Please mail all application materials to:

Morehouse College
Public Health Sciences Institute
Attn: Project: IMHOTEP
830 Westview Drive SW, Box 140088
Atlanta, GA 30314-3773

We look forward to receiving your application packet and wish you much success in the future.

Best Regards,

Project: IMHOTEP
Public Health Sciences Institute
Morehouse College

830 Westview Drive, S.W., Box 140088, Atlanta, Georgia 30314-3773 • 404.215.2733
<http://www.morehouse.edu/centers/phsi>

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Project: IMHOTEP Application Packet



PERSONAL DATA

Name _____
Last First Middle

Current Address _____
Number Street City State Zip Code

Permanent Address _____
Number Street City State Zip Code

Current Telephone Number (_____) _____ Permanent Telephone Number (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes No
(Proof of citizenship or immigration status will be required upon employment)

Are you a U.S. Permanent Resident? Yes No
(Proof of citizenship or immigration status will be required upon employment)

Have you been convicted of a felony within the last seven years? No Yes

If yes, please explain: _____
(Conviction will not necessarily disqualify an applicant)

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Gender: Female Male

Race/Ethnic Group: African American/Black Hispanic/Latino White Asian
 American Indian/Alaskan Native Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

Military Experience/Disabilities: Member of Armed Forces Vietnam Veteran
 Handicapped Individual Disabled Veteran

How did you hear about this internship? Check all that apply.

- Faculty/Staff Member
- Former IMHOTEP Intern
- Friend
- Informational/Bulletin Board
- Internet
- Newspaper
- Poster
- Word-Of-Mouth
- Other (Specify) _____

You can apply online or download an application from the web at:
<http://www.morehouse.edu/centers/phsi>

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

| | Institution | Dates Attended | Degree | Major/Minor |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|--------|-------------|
| College/University | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Graduate/Professional | | | | |

Name and address of present academic institution _____

Current Classification _____ Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) _____

Academic Advisor _____

Name
Email
Telephone Number

List all computer science, health and natural sciences, mathematics, statistics, and research courses you have completed or are currently enrolled (**DO NOT INCLUDE LABS**):

| <u>Course Title</u> | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Course Title</u> | <u>Grade</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Indicate any languages, other than English, you speak/write fluently _____

List any special skills (e.g. continuing education units, certifications) _____

Describe any research, preferably public health, you have conducted _____

List all academic honors and scholarships awarded _____

Have you taken any of the following graduate examinations? No Yes

If yes, please check appropriate exam and indicate (highest) scores.

GRE: V _____ Q _____ W _____ LSAT: _____
 MCAT: VR _____ BS _____ PS _____ W _____ GMAT: _____

If not, do you plan on taking any of the above examinations? No Yes (Specify _____)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Starting with your most recent position, list work all experience (include military service, if applicable)..

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Employer | From | To | Supervisor |
| Address | Job Title | | Telephone Number |
| Describe work performed | | | |
| <hr/> <hr/> | | | |
| Employer | From | To | Supervisor |
| Address | Job Title | | Telephone Number |
| Describe work performed | | | |
| <hr/> <hr/> | | | |

USE ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NEEDED.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

List volunteer activities and number of hours completed _____

List all extracurricular activities, including leadership positions _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

List two (2) persons to provide professional letters of recommendation:

| | | |
|------|---------------|------------------|
| Name | Email Address | Telephone Number |
|------|---------------|------------------|

| | | |
|------|---------------|------------------|
| Name | Email Address | Telephone Number |
|------|---------------|------------------|

Write a brief biographical narrative that details your short and long-term career goals, areas of research interest in public health, and unique qualifications for participation in this summer program. Describe events/situations that have adequately prepared you for entrance into a career in public health and if there are none, highlight what you have done in lieu of these inadequacies. Lastly, rank the top five (5) areas of public health in which you are most interested according to the following: (1) Biostatistics, (2) Epidemiology, (3) Occupational Safety and Health, (4) Environmental Health, (5) Health Behaviors/Health Education, (6) Maternal and Child Health, (7) Health Policy and Management, (8) Industrial Hygiene, (9) International Health, and (10) Nutrition. ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NEEDED.

I certify that answers given herein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I authorize investigation of all statements contained in this application for employment as may be necessary in arriving at an employment decision.

I understand that this document does not constitute an employment contract.

In the event of employment, I understand that false or misleading information given in my application or interview(s) may result in discharge. I understand, also, that I am required to abide by all rules and regulations of the employer if I am employed.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Project: IMHOTEP Recommendation Form

Name _____
Last
First
Middle

- I agree to waive access to this statement.
 I do not agree to waive access to this statement.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

The above named applicant has asked that you provide a letter of recommendation on his/her behalf as part of their application for Project: IMHOTEP. Project: IMHOTEP is an eleven-week summer internship program designed for minority students who are rising juniors, seniors, or recent graduates of an undergraduate institution. Students receive training in biostatistics, epidemiology, and occupational safety and health. The program offers participants the opportunity to perform intense research with experts at the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** and various other domestic and international public health agencies.

How long have you known the applicant? _____

In what capacity have you known this applicant? (Check as many as are appropriate)

- College Professor Friend
 High School Teacher Clergy
 Employer/Supervisor Other (specify) _____
 Co-worker

Please rate the applicant in the following areas by circling the corresponding number.

| | Poor | Below Average | Average | Good | Excellent |
|------------------------------------|------|---------------|---------|------|-----------|
| Academic Capabilities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Writing Skills | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Communication Skills | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Analytical Skills | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Initiative | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Dependability | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Adaptability | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Professional Appearance | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Ability to Work with Others | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Emotional Stability | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

PLEASE PROVIDE ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS ON A SEPARATE SHEET.

Recommender's Name _____ Title _____

Current Address _____
Number
Street
City
State
Zip Code

Current Telephone Number (____) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please visit us on the web at:
<http://www.morehouse.edu/centers/phsi>

Project: IMHOTEP Recommendation Form

Name _____
Last
First
Middle

- I agree to waive access to this statement.
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