

University of Massachusetts Summer Service-Learning Assistantship

The UMMS Summer Service-Learning Assistantship Program offers summer placements in a variety of health and human service organizations throughout the Commonwealth for rising second-year medical students. These placements allow students to develop deeper understanding of the social determinants and environmental influences on health as they build relationships with a range of health professionals in the communities they intend to serve.

Placements are planned for a minimum of 4 weeks; most students work at their sites for between 6-8 weeks. Students are paid \$15 per hour for 133-200 hours. Occasionally, students elect to work at their placement sites for more than this maximum number of hours; these additional hours, however, are pro bono and are not reimbursed by the school. Students are UMMS employees for the summer and so need to complete the requisite paperwork in May to ensure timely payment.

Goals:

- Learn about the agency where placed—including mission, funding, staffing, origins, governance – and population being served
- Explore relationships between medical providers and community, medical and health organizations
- Learn about policy issues relevant to host site
- Contribute to the Commonwealth's health and human service agencies
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Logistics:

1. Following an informational session held in December, students complete their applications, including site placement preferences. We encourage students to reach out to either of the faculty preceptors, Heather-Lyn Haley and Suzanne Cashman, to discuss their own learning objectives and placement preferences. Applications can be completed online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UMMS_Summer2019 and are due by the end of January. If funding remains available, we will discuss placement requests as late as April.
2. Students are matched with sites and connected with a site preceptor to discuss their learning goals and the agency's service needs to ensure a good fit. Following this meeting, the student should contact Heather-Lyn Haley to confirm the placement or to identify an alternative. Students will document and submit 2-3 learning objectives and 2-3 service objectives on which they and their site preceptors have agreed. Drs. Haley and Cashman are available to attend and facilitate these meetings as needed. Placement schedules should be discussed and decided by the student and preceptor, but generally should not be less than four weeks in length. Students should not plan to work more than 8 hours in a day or more than 40 hours in one week.
3. Dr. Haley or Cashman may meet with the student and his/her site preceptor. Once finalized, students will be directed through the process to register as employees through HR. Questions and timesheets may be directed to Heather-Lyn.Haley@umassmed.edu.
4. **Five small group student learning sessions** will be held with UMMS faculty as part of this program. The purpose of these meetings is to share experiences and insights with other students as well as to trouble shoot and problem solve. The final meeting includes a peer-review session as students share and finalize their posters.
5. Students keep and share a **journal of reflections**, with writing due at the end of their second working week and then at the end of the placement. These are submitted to the UMMS faculty, Heather-Lyn Haley and/or Suzanne Cashman, though students are also encouraged to also share with site preceptors and/or creative writing outlets at the institutional level.
6. Students participate in the university's end-of-summer poster session by completing a poster describing their experience; students may complete this assignment in pairs if placed together or in similar sites. Preceptors and other site representatives are encouraged to attend.