

LA County DPH – Public Health Scholars – Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the Public Health Scholars program?

The Public Health Scholars program is an innovative applied public health research training program, offered by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, that has been designed to meet the demands of evidence-based practice and research in the 21st century.

2) How is the Public Health Scholars program different from the Epi Scholars program (2011-2013)?

The Public Health Scholars program is based on the Epi Scholars program, previously offered by LA County DPH. The Epi Scholars program was a pilot program that concentrated on Epidemiology students and was grant-funded by the de Beaumont Foundation from 2011-2013. The Public Health Scholars program is funded through LA County and now includes all disciplines of Public Health.

3) I am currently in the MPH/doctorate program. Can I apply to the Public Health Scholars program?

If you are enrolled in an accredited graduate program or in an accredited School of Public Health with specialization in Epidemiology or Public health (MPH, MS in Epidemiology, DrPH, PhD in Epidemiology, PhD in Public Health) you are eligible to apply to the Public Health Scholars program. Current graduate students who are in programs for: Epidemiology/Biostatistics, Health Policy and Management, Health Education and Promotion, Environmental Health, Health Communications, or other related programs are encouraged to apply.

4) I am currently in the last year/semester of my MPH program. Can I still apply to the Public Health Scholars program?

Students who are planning to graduate before starting the 12-week program are not eligible to be considered for the Public Health Scholars program. If a student plans to continue in a doctorate program, they are still eligible to apply.

5) Does the Public Health Scholars program provide a stipend?

Yes. Public Health Scholars will be assigned to projects on a full-time basis (40 hours/week) for the duration of the assignment, and will be compensated according to the Administrative Aid bulletin (approximately \$3210 per month).

6) Does the Public Health Scholars program take applications from international students?

Yes, as long as you have a Social Security Number and clearly states on your card that it is not for ID purposes only, you can use this number to complete the LA County Application process. Eligibility requirements include a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, and current enrollment in an accredited graduate program with specialization in Public Health.

7) I am currently in the Health Promotion, Biostatistics, Health Policy, etc. track in the MPH program at my school. Can I apply to the Public Health Scholars program?

Yes. The new Public Health Scholars program welcomes MPH students from **all** of the disciplines that fall within the scope of public health. LA County DPH has projects on topics including, but not limited to: Epidemiology/Biostatistics, Health Policy and Management, Health Education and Promotion, Environmental Health, Health Communications, and more.

8) How do I apply for the Public Health Scholars program? What is the process?

There are two main steps involved in applying for the Public Health Scholars program. The first step is the LA County DPH Human Resources online application, which is open to anyone who fulfills the general requirements of the Public Health Scholars program. Successful applicants of the online portion will receive a letter from DPH Human Resources. Qualified applicants will be contacted by DPH mentor staff for the second step of the application process, which will conclude with the final scholar selections.

For the application, you will need:

- Copy of your Bachelor Degree
- Official transcripts or a letter from the registrar confirming enrollment in your current program indicating your concentration OR a letter from the Registrar confirming the program you are enrolled in OR a letter on letterhead from your program confirmation the program and concentration you are enrolled in

9) What documents do I need to submit? How? What format?

Your proof of enrollment in a Public Health program can be in the form of 1) an official transcript, 2) a letter from the Registrar, or 3) a letter on letterhead from your Program. These can be scanned in (no need to send in a sealed envelope) and needs to be submitted within 15 days of your online application submission.

10) How will I be selected to work on a project?

After review of the online application submissions, qualified applicants will be contacted to provide additional supplemental documentation (personal statement, recommendation letter, transcripts, CV/resume) before being interviewed by DPH staff mentors. These mentors will make the final selections for who will participate in the summer Public Health Scholars program.

11) What documents do I need to prepare to be considered for the Public Health Scholars program?

After a successful application to the Administrative Aid bulletin with DPH Human Resources, you may need provide the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae or Resume*
- Personal Statement**
- One recommendation letter**
- Copy of official transcripts from current graduate program**

*Your CV or Resume will for sure be requested.

**Your personal statement, letter of recommendation and transcripts may or may not be requested.

12) Can I start and end my program anytime throughout the year?

If you are selected by one of the DPH staff mentors to join a project with the Public Health Scholars, your start and end dates should be arranged with your mentor. Public Health Scholar assignments will generally be 10-12 weeks long. Currently, Public Health Scholars program curriculum scheduling efforts are being focused on the summer months only.

For more information, contact:

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