

Financial Assistance

Most of our students receive some form of financial assistance through the school or campus during their time of graduate study. For about 85% of our full-time students who seek funding, support is given in the form of assistantships. Other students receive support through traineeships. The description and criteria for the different types of financial assistance are described fully below. Although CHS will assist its students in obtaining needed assistance, the primary responsibility rests with the student.

Assistantships

Assistantships are salaried appointments for which students earn a wage and usually qualify for a tuition and service fee waiver. Graduate students can be employed as research, graduate, or teaching assistants. Students who hold appointments between 25-67% for at least three-quarters of the term (91 calendar days in the Fall or Spring semester, and 41 calendar days during the Summer semester) are eligible for the tuition and service fee waiver. In most cases, students must be registered for at least 8 semester hours during the Fall and Spring semesters and 3 semester hours during the Summer semester for the waiver to be effective. Students who hold assistantships for the Spring semester and received a tuition and service fee waiver are entitled to a waiver for the following Summer semester. Assistantships are ideal for out-of-state students who otherwise would have to pay the non-resident tuition rate. Please note that the tuition waiver does not cover fees other than the service fee and does not cover the SPH tuition differential.

Depending on SPH distributions and faculty grants, CHS may have some research assistant positions for its students. In the past, positions have also been available through other UIC colleges, particularly the College of Nursing, College of Medicine and the College of Dentistry. Job announcements are posted through the SPH student listservs (SPHNEWS and SPHIEWS) and it is therefore important to be registered for these listservs before the Fall semester begins. In order to do so, you can contact Gwen Slaughter at gwens@uic.edu to request to be added to the SPH student listservs. Your faculty advisor is another good source for finding an assistantship. In addition, the Division will assist by distributing students' resumes to CHS faculty and research centers. However, it is always the students' responsibility to apply for job announcements when they become available.

CHS Traineeships

CHS administers the financial aid programs described below for its own students. These traineeships are given in the form of research assistantships, payment of tuition and other fees, and (in very limited circumstances) travel allowances. New students are considered at the time of admission into CHS. Awards are typically given on a semester basis with possible renewal contingent on the availability of funds and student performance. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) and have an approved program proposal on file within the designated time period. Selection is competitive based on past academic performance, professional experience, and financial need with preference given to full-time students. The sources identified below are available specifically for CHS students.

Public Health Traineeships

Public Health Traineeships are federally funded and typically awarded as payment of tuition and fees, either in part or whole depending on the availability of funds. In order to qualify, a student must be either a U.S. citizen or permanent resident at the time of application.

Community Health Sciences Traineeships

CHS Traineeships are funded through the tuition differential and are available to students who have matriculated into one of its degree programs. The award is typically awarded as payment of tuition and fees, either in part or whole depending on the availability of funds. In addition, funding may also be available to provide full-time students with research assistant positions, which also qualify them for a tuition and service fee waiver. All CHS students are eligible for these traineeships.

In order to be considered for either of these awards, students must complete a CHS Application for Financial Assistance which can be found at the CHS website. Complete application forms should be directed to the CHS Academic Coordinator, room 682, SPHPI, m/c 923. In addition, a current FAFSA application (Free Application for

Federal Student Aid) must be completed for the year that funding is requested. The FAFSA is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Traineeships

A limited number of MCH Traineeships are available to students in the MCH track (including MCH Epidemiology) and are awarded through the federal DHHS Maternal and Child Health Bureau or through the local Harris Foundation. These traineeships can either include a small stipend, payment of in-state tuition, or a graduate assistantship. Graduate assistantships are available only to full-time MCH students (12 credits or more). Students who receive these assistantships are given a 25% appointment (10 hours per week) for which they earn a wage and tuition/fee waiver.

CHS students officially admitted to the Maternal and Child Health Program are eligible to apply for these traineeships and assistantships. The amount of assistance available is limited and is awarded based on a combination of academic excellence, professional MCH experience, a commitment to MCH, and financial need. Students who hold a terminal clinical degree within their designated discipline (such as an MD or a Master's degree in Nursing or Social Work) are given special consideration. Consideration will be given to some applicants who may not meet all of these qualifications. Students must maintain MCH or MCH Epidemiology as their major course of study.

New students should apply for funding no later than June 1 for the following academic year (beginning the fall semester) by returning the attached CHS Request for Financial Assistance Application to the CHS Academic Coordinator, room 682, SPHPI, m/c 923. The application will be forwarded to the MCH Program. Notification will be given by July 15. Questions about MCH financial assistance can be directed to Katerina Barcal at 312-413-5625 or kbarcal@uic.edu.

Board of Trustee (BOT) Tuition and Service Fee Waiver

This waiver is provided by the Graduate College and is awarded through the SPH Office of the Dean based on recommendations from the Division. SPH is allocated six waivers each semester (fall, spring and summer)—three for full-time students and three for part-time students. The award provides a waiver of tuition and service fee. All CHS students (including foreign nationals) in the MS or PhD degree programs who are enrolled on a full or part-time basis are eligible to receive a BOT waiver.

Gerontological Public Health Fellowships

These fellowships are sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and provide funding support for up to 4 years at the pre-doctoral level and 2-3 years at the postdoctoral level. The goal of the program is to develop highly trained future faculty and researchers in public health and aging. Each Fellow is assigned a primary and secondary mentor to guide them through the training program. Fellows receive an annual stipend, plus tuition waiver (if applicable), health benefits and travel support. Additional information can be found at the program's website at: www.uic.edu/depts/ovcr/hrpc/centers/rha.html. Application announcements will be posted to student listserv.

Illinois Public Health Research Fellowship Program

This program is funded through CDC and seeks to develop interdisciplinary health protection research training opportunities in preparedness and primary prevention across the life stages, with emphasis on research to reduce health disparities and promote environmental justice. Fellowships are funded at both the pre-doctoral and post-doctoral levels. Applicants must be U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals or lawfully admitted permanent residents at the time of the award. Additional information can be found at the program's website at <http://apr.sph.uic.edu/manual/III/Fellowship/description.htm>. Application announcements will be posted to student listserv.

For further information contact: CHS Academic Coordinator, room 682, SPHPI, 312-996-8940 or Madge Schwien, room 666, SPHPI, 312-996-8867.