



The CDC Experience Applied **Epidemiology Fellowship**

A One-Year Fellowship for Medical Students

Application





The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship

Dear Applicant:

The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship is a one-year fellowship in applied epidemiology and public health for medical students who have completed their second or third year of training. This program is based at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) headquarters in Atlanta, GA. Students will be placed at one of the CDC offices in Atlanta as determined by the students' areas of interest which may include birth defects, injuries, chronic diseases, infectious diseases, environmental health, reproductive health and minority health. The program emphasizes exposing fellows to CDC activities in non-infectious disease program areas.

Fellows learn through hands-on training and formal seminars as well as participation in field epidemiologic experiences. Training and work assignments provide opportunities to perform epidemiologic analyses and research, design public health interventions, and assist in public health field experiences. This challenging and intellectually stimulating environment provides multiple opportunities to enhance skills in research and analytic thinking, written and oral scientific presentations, preventive medicine, and public health. Graduates of *The CDC Experience* will have a greater appreciation of the role of epidemiology in medicine and health, be able to apply their knowledge and skills to enhance their clinical acumen, and to work within the larger health system. *The CDC Experience* graduates have the potential to become future physician-leaders and substantially contribute to the quality of the health care system.

The fellowship will begin in August. The application materials must be postmarked by December 5, 2008. The following pages provide guidance on completing and submitting the application. For more information on the fellowship, you may access our Web site at www.cdcfoundation.org/thecdcexperience, or e-mail the program coordinator at cdcexperience@cdcfoundation.org.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Denise Koo, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Career Development Division
Office of Workforce and Career Development
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention





The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship

Are you eligible?

You are eligible to apply to *The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship* if you are:

- currently enrolled in an LCME- or AOA-accredited school of medicine
- a medical student who has completed your second or third year of medical school and has some clinical/clerkship experience
- an U.S. citizen or permanent resident

How to apply:

The items listed below comprise your application and must be submitted to *The CDC Experience* at the address listed on the next page:

1. **CURRICULUM VITAE (CV):** in standard format (see attached format and example).
2. **PERSONAL STATEMENT:** no longer than 2 pages, typewritten and double-spaced, which addresses the following questions in an integrated manner:
 - What do you feel *The CDC Experience* provides that makes it worthwhile for you to take a year off from medical school? How would it advance your career and personal goals?
 - Describe your career plans after your medical training (include residency if applicable). Where will you go and why have you made this choice?
 - How have your previous experiences shaped your future direction and motivations? (In particular, please indicate if you have had an experience that piqued your interest in public health.)
 - Why did you choose your top area of public health interest listed on your CV? (Be specific.)
3. **REFERENCE LETTERS:** Three letters of recommendation are required (using the format detailed in the "Instructions for Reference Letters" page that follows) from persons who know you professionally, are familiar with your achievements and future aspirations, and can speak to your personal qualities and professional attributes. One letter must be from a medical school faculty member, either in pre-clinical or clinical years, and another letter must be from your Dean of Student Affairs (or equivalent). Note: You must provide this format to each of the three references, who must return it to *The CDC Experience* by the deadline date. Please also provide the recommender with a copy of the description of the fellowship included in the application.
4. **TRANSCRIPTS:** Official copies of undergraduate, graduate (if applicable) and medical school transcripts.



The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship

Application Deadline:

A paper copy of all application materials, including reference letters, must be postmarked by December 5, 2008, for the class beginning in August 2009. Application materials not received within two weeks of this date, applications that are incomplete or applications sent by e-mail or fax will not be considered.

Mail your application package to:

The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship Program
Attn: Catherine Piper, M.P.H., *The CDC Experience* Program Coordinator
Career Development Division
Office of Workforce and Career Development
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd, NE, Mailstop E-92
Atlanta, GA 30333

You are responsible for the timely submission and receipt of all application materials. For confirmation of receipt of your application and reference letters, include a self-addressed stamped postcard with your application.

Selection Process:

The selection process consists of two levels of review. The first level will be an assessment of the entire application packet. Applicants will be notified by early February whether they will advance to the second level of review.

The second level of the selection process involves personal interviews with *The CDC Experience* program personnel and with CDC personnel who proposed projects for *The CDC Experience* fellows. Candidates will be scheduled for interviews on Saturday, February 28, 2009, and decisions and notifications will be made within two weeks of the interviews. Each fellow will be matched with a program according to his or her expressed area of interest and the program's interest in the fellow. There will be a short waiting list. Please see our Web site for examples of previous years' assignment descriptions.

Questions?

Catherine Piper, M.P.H., Program Coordinator
The CDC Experience
404.498.6151
cdcexperience@cdcfoundation.org
www.cdcfoundation.org/thecdcexperience



Standard Curriculum Vitae (CV) Format for Application to *The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship*

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Provide the following personal information:

- Full name
- Mailing address
- Telephone number(s)
- Fax number (if available)
- E-mail address
- Country of citizenship

PUBLIC HEALTH AREA OF INTEREST

In a brief statement describe your potential areas of interest while at CDC. Explain.

EDUCATION

List all institutions attended, since high school, beginning with the most recent.

- Years attended
- Name of institution
- Location (city and state)
- Graduated date and type of degree or diploma received or expected
- Please state reason for change of undergraduate institution, if applicable.
- Major(s), minor(s)

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCES

List all paid employment after high school graduation.

- Dates employed: from _____ to _____
- Job title, organization or agency and location
- Duties, accomplishments, responsibilities
- Average hours per week

INTERNSHIP OR CLERKSHIP EXPERIENCES

List all internship(s) and clerkship(s) experiences, after high school graduation, beginning with the most recent.

- Dates: from _____ to _____
- Job title, organization or agency and location
- Duties and accomplishments
- Average hours per week

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

List all volunteer and community service experiences, including activities in civic, professional or political organizations not listed under other categories.

- Name of organization
- Dates of participation, from __ to __
- Degree of participation: duties, accomplishments, responsibilities and average hours per week

PROFICIENCIES

List proficiencies acquired in the following areas and rate skill levels using the terms: excellent, good or fair.

- Languages: spoken and written
- Computer programs: word processing, graphics, spread sheets, statistical packages, database management (specifically Epi-Info)
- Laboratory or research skills
- Other that might be relevant

HONORS AND AWARDS

List honors and awards received since high school.

- Type of honor
- Name of organization
- Date received

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

If published, provide reference information.

- List date of research or journal title and date of publication.

Failure to follow this format might result in your application not being considered. You are not limited to one page.

—EXAMPLE—
Lily Lee, BA

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Address: 1234 State Street
Savannah, GA 30099
Home phone number: 000-444-1111 Fax number: 000-444-3333
Work phone number: 000-444-2222 E-mail address: llee@yahoo.com
Citizenship: United States

PUBLIC HEALTH AREA OF INTEREST

As a result of my intern experience in the emergency room, I developed a keen interest in the area of injury prevention, especially those involving children and adolescents. CDC program areas that appear to relate to my interest are preventing childhood injuries, preventing motor vehicle injuries, and adolescent and school health.

EDUCATION

9/00–Present Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA; Expected Graduation, May 2004
9/96–5/00 University of Georgia, Athens, GA
BA – Political Science and Economics Major; History Minor, May 2000

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE (paid positions)

9/01–Present Health Education Associate
Augusta Medical Health Center, Augusta, GA
(Description of duties), 10 hours a week
12/98 – 4/00 Assistant Economic Analyst
Business Bureau of Athens, Athens, GA
(Description of duties), 20 hours a week
10/96 – 12/98 CPR Counselor
Red Cross of Athens, Athens, GA
(Description of duties), 8 hours a week
12/96 – 10/98 Library Assistant
University of Georgia Law Library, Athens, GA
(Description of duties), 10 hours a week

Continue in above format for each job.

INTERNSHIPS/CLERKSHIPS

6/98 – 6/99 Intern
Athens Regional Medical Center, Athens, GA
(Duties and accomplishments), 10 hours a week

Continue in above format for each internship/clerkship

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

5/99 – 5/00 Committee Chair, Southeast Regional Asian American Student Union Conference,
Atlantic Coast Asian American Student Union
(Describe degree of participation)
6/99 – 6/00 Georgia Human Rights Campaign 2000, Member of Planning Committee
Human Rights Organization, Atlanta, GA
(Duties and accomplishments), 10 hours a week

Continue in above format for each volunteer and community service activity.

PROFICIENCIES (good, excellent or fair)

Foreign languages:
Spanish (spoken): excellent Spanish (written): fair

Computer skills:
Word: excellent Epi-Info: fair
FoxPro: fair SPSS: excellent
Power Point: good

Grant-writing skills: excellent

HONORS AND AWARDS

Political Science student of the year, University of Georgia, May 2000
Merit Scholarship, University of Georgia, 1996

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Lee L., Shah P., Johnson R. Political Awareness and Its Impact on Health Care. Pol Health in Am 2001. 9(3):4-9.

Continue in above format for each publication or research.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REFERENCE LETTERS FOR
The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship

A REFERENCE LETTER FOR _____

(Applicant's Name)

Dear Colleague:

The individual identified above is applying for *The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship*, a one-year fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and has listed you as a reference. *The CDC Experience* is designed for medical students who have completed their second or third year of medical school. Training and work assignments provide opportunities for fellows to perform epidemiologic analyses and research, design public health interventions, and participate in field experiences. Lack of previous public health experience is not a barrier to acceptance. We are looking for individuals who will be able to make the most of the activities and goals of the fellowship. (Please see attached description of fellowship.)

As a reference, your frank and objective evaluation of the applicant's strengths, weaknesses, and suitability for this fellowship will play an important part in the selection process. To assist us in the review process, we ask that you address the following items in your letter of recommendation:

1. Indicate:

- your name
- your title
- your organization
- how long you have known the applicant
- in what capacity you know the applicant (e.g., employer, supervisor, teacher, faculty advisor)

2. Please comment on why the student is appropriate for this fellowship and include examples that draw on your interactions with the applicants. For the following six categories, please rate the applicant in comparison with others at a similar stage in their professional development, using the following scale:

5 = Best I know 4 = Top 5% 3 = Top 20% 2 = Top 50% 1 = Below 50%

U = Unable to assess (have not had opportunity to observe applicant's skill in this area.)

Categories

- quantitative skills
- analytic thinking
- written communications
- oral communications
- interpersonal and team skills
- initiative

3. If you are the Dean of Student Affairs, in your reference letter, we would appreciate
 - your verification that the student is in good academic standing
 - that the institution supports his/her spending a year away from medical school for this fellowship, and
 - your comments on features that distinguish this student from others in his or her class

4. Please provide any additional comments on strengths and weaknesses not covered in the previous information that you feel would be helpful in the selection process. Failure to provide a quantitative score in the areas listed previously may result in a lower score for the applicant.

For the individual named above to be considered for the fellowship, a paper copy (neither fax nor e-mail is sufficient) of your signed letter of reference must be postmarked by December 5, 2008, and mailed to the following address. Send your letter directly to the program coordinator. Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Piper, M.P.H., Program Coordinator, at 404.498.6151 or e-mail cdcexperience@cdcfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

Denise Koo, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Career Development Division
Office of Workforce and Career Development
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd., NE, Mail Stop E-92
Atlanta, GA 30333

Mail your letter to:

Catherine Piper, M.P.H.
The CDC Experience Program Coordinator
Career Development Division
Office of Career and Workforce Development
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd., NE, Mail Stop E-92
Atlanta, GA 30333



www.cdcfoundation.org/thecdcexperience

The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship

The Fellowship

The CDC Experience Applied Epidemiology Fellowship is a one-year fellowship for medical students. The program is designed to increase the pool of physicians with a population health perspective. Each year, eight competitively selected medical students from around the U.S. spend 10 to 12 months at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. At CDC they gain an in-depth understanding of applied epidemiology, the role of epidemiology in medicine and health, and the role of physicians in the public health system. With the guidance of experienced CDC epidemiologists, they perform epidemiologic analyses and research, design public health interventions and assist in field experiences. Possible areas of concentration include birth defects, injury prevention, chronic disease, infectious disease, environmental health, reproductive health and minority health.

Career Benefits

This challenging fellowship provides multiple skill-building opportunities for physicians-in-training. The CDC Experience fellows develop improved research and analytic thinking skills, receive coaching on written and oral scientific presentations, and gain an in-depth knowledge of epidemiology, preventive medicine and public health. Fellows will be able to apply the knowledge and skills acquired through The CDC Experience in their future careers to enhance their clinical work and their work within the larger health system. Graduates of The CDC Experience have the potential to become future physician leaders and substantially contribute to the quality of the health care system.

Fellowship Activities

- Hands-on training and work experience at CDC
- Participation in field experiences
- Orientation to CDC and didactic training
- Monthly seminars
- Monthly journal clubs
- Attendance at the annual Epidemic Intelligence Service Conference
- Presentation of culminating project

Fellowship Details

- 10- to 12-month fellowship in applied epidemiology and public health for medical students completing their second or third year
- Application deadline: December with the fellowship to begin the following August
- Stipend provided for living expenses

Learn More & Apply

www.cdcfoundation.org/thecdcexperience
cdcexperience@cdcfoundation.org
404.498.6151

