Assistantships for MPH Students

Assistantships are paid, part-time positions on campus that allow MPH students to build relevant experience and marketable skills while completing their degree. Students work with faculty members on public health programs or research and earn an hourly wage. The positions are open to MPH students from all tracks, and most do not require any prior experience. Assistantships could potentially lead to a practicum or culminating experience, or even a full-time job offer after graduation.

The job titles, responsibilities, and wages vary according to the position and hiring department. Wages usually range between $10/hour to $14/hour, with some as high as $20/hour. Students are paid on a bi-monthly basis by the hiring department and students may choose to apply earnings toward tuition, living expenses, or other costs at their discretion.

Incoming students are connected with these opportunities through the Vanderbilt MPH Program’s #jobs-assistantships channel in Slack. Starting in July, after students have activated their VU student email accounts, they will receive an email from the Vanderbilt MPH Program inviting them to join the program’s Slack workspace.

Assistantships are posted to the #jobs-assistantships Slack channel starting in the summer and throughout the academic year on an ongoing basis, as opportunities arise. The majority of positions are posted after the start of the academic year. Students interested in an assistantship should check Slack periodically for new postings, or adjust their Slack notification settings to receive an email alert when a new position is posted.

Examples of MPH Student Assistantships

Note: Listed below are a few examples of positions previous MPH students have held. Specific opportunities for the upcoming academic year will be posted to the Vanderbilt MPH Program Slack workspace starting in July. Incoming students will be invited to join the Slack workspace in the summer, after they have activated their VU student email account.

Research Assistant (Emerging Infections Program), Department of Health Policy
Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Emerging Infections Program (EIP) is a multifaceted collaboration of the CDC with 10 state health departments and their academic partners, with the goal of conducting enhanced public health surveillance and applied research to detect, prevent, and control emerging infectious diseases. Several part-time research assistants work with the influenza or HPV team to help with scheduling and completing chart reviews and data entry, completing case report forms, attending team meetings, preparing scientific posters and presentations, other duties as assigned. Flexible scheduling with a maximum of 20 hours/week.

Graduate Assistant, Department of Health Policy
The Department of Health Policy is hiring a graduate assistant to assist with health policy and health services research. In this position, the student will conduct literature reviews using databases, write and edit manuscripts and other materials for journal and grant submissions, collect and organize data for numerous projects, run and interpret analyses using STATA 16, present data findings at public health meetings and conferences, collaborate with other members of the LGBTQ Policy Lab, and create posters for conference presentations. 20 hours/week.

Graduate Assistant, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health (VIGH)
Gain experience in managing educational programming related to global health. Specific tasks may include monitoring and evaluation of courses, curriculum design and development, marketing of programs, and student outreach. 15-20 hours/week.
Graduate Assistant (Epilepsy Research), Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health
The student will assist with primary data collection for two epilepsy projects: status epilepticus (prolonged seizure) outcomes and validation of a questionnaire to screen for epilepsy among children with new-onset suspected seizures. Experience in a health care setting would be helpful, but not required. A student could begin in this position before the start of the academic year, if interested.

Research Analyst I (Bilingual), Division of Genetic Medicine
The Research Analyst I will assist the research team in conducting epidemiologically-based studies focused on inherited cancer predisposition. Duties include recruitment and enrollment of study participants, as well as gathering and maintaining study related data. Preference for students proficient in speaking and reading English and Spanish. 10-20 hours/week.

Research Assistant, Hospital Associated Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Network at Vanderbilt
The Hospital Associated Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Network at Vanderbilt in the Division of Infectious Diseases is hiring several part-time research assistants for a project on influenza vaccine effectiveness. The study seeks to assess how well the influenza vaccine works each year. In this position, students will have the opportunity to participate in primary data collection, data entry, and auditing. This position is for 10-20 hours per week.

Research Assistant (Gut Microbiome), Division of Epidemiology
The Division of Epidemiology is hiring a part-time research assistant for a project on the role of gut microbiome in bariatric and metabolic surgery. In this position, the student will work with both Epidemiology and Surgery Clinic teams and will have the opportunity to participate in patient enrollment and follow-up, data collection through REDCap and other survey tools, biospecimen collection, database and lab management, statistical analysis, and results reporting.

Other Employment Opportunities
In addition to assistantships, MPH students work in other positions on campus and in the Nashville community.

On Campus

Examples of positions:

- Research Assistant
- Graduate Assistant
- Resident Adviser

Where to look:

- Office of Student Employment
  - Hire-a-Dore (accessible after July 15 with VUNetID)
  - Student Employment Facebook page (@vustudentemployment)
- Office of Housing & Residential Education (rising 2nd year students eligible)
- VU Human Resources
- VUMC Human Resources

(search part-time and temporary positions)

Off Campus

Examples of positions:

- Private tutor
- Yoga instructor
- Server at a restaurant
- Apple Store employee

Where to look:

- Office of Student Employment
  - Hire-a-Dore (accessible after July 15 with VUNetID)
  - Student Employment Facebook page (@vustudentemployment)
- Vanderbilt Classifieds (accessible with VUNetID)
- Center for Nonprofit Management (for positions in local non-profits)
- Idealist, Indeed, and other job sites