



Center for Diversity in
Public Health Leadership Training
at Kennedy Krieger Institute

The Maternal Child Health – Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Research Network

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is MCH-LEARN?

The **Maternal Child Health – Leadership, Education, Advocacy, and Research Network (MCH-LEARN)** facilitates undergraduate freshman and sophomore students entry into graduate school in Maternal Child Health fields, i.e., public health and related fields such as pediatrics, MCH nutrition, MCH social work, MCH nursing, pediatric dentistry, psychology, health education, pediatric occupational/physical therapy and speech language pathology.

Accepted scholars participate in the 10-week summer program and participate in monthly two-hour seminars, conferences, and visit the state capitol throughout the academic school year (September- April).

2. Who can apply to the MCH-LEARN Program?

- Undergraduate freshman and sophomore students with at least 3.0 GPA on a 4-point scale
- U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, Permanent Residents

3. What are the three public health experiences available to students during the 10-week summer program?

Each student participates in a public health research project and may also select up one additional leadership experience. Research Experience: Students work with research mentors on a wide range of public health, prevention, treatment, and epidemiological studies. Students receive training in analysis of national datasets and community-based participatory research.

Additional public health experiences offered to students are:

- Community Engagement and Advocacy Experience:** Students work with professionals in developmental disabilities, public health, and related systems on forming, implementing, and evaluating health care and disability legislation, regulations, and practice guidelines. The importance of engaging underrepresented communities is emphasized.
- Clinical Track Experience:** Students rotate through clinical experiences provided by Maternal and Child Health professionals (pediatrics, psychiatry, neurology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nutrition, social work, psychology, speech/ language, special education, and nursing). In addition, students gain experience by providing community based healthcare and community support.

4. What are the typical tasks of each public health experience?

- Community Engagement and Advocacy:
 - Conduct surveys in the community
 - Community observations of programs and activities
 - Public health program evaluation at the state or local government levels
- Clinical:
 - Observe patient evaluation and treatment
 - Assist clinical staff in patient care
 - Assist in organizing and cleaning equipment for patient visits
- Research Track:
 - Data entry for research projects
 - Literature review
 - Make telephone calls to confirm participant data
 - Analyze data from current and prior research projects

- 5. What experiences can students expect to gain from MCH-LEARN program?**
- Students will participate in a comprehensive educational and applied public health learning experience that will enhance their abilities to successfully transition to an MCH related graduate and professional school, and ultimately to a career in MCH public health.
 - Students will complete an abstract and poster through the summer and academic year on a public health topic related to Maternal Child Health disparities.
 - Students will present their research, and/or MCH public health topic, at the end of the summer and will be sponsored (travel, conference registration, and housing are paid by MCH-LEARN program) to present at a national conference.
- 7. Do students receive a stipend for participating in MCH-LEARN program?**
Stipend amount is \$3500 for the 10 week summer program and small stipend for fall and spring semester work. Adjustments to stipend are made for scholars with multiple sources of federal funding.
- 8. Are travel and housing options available?**
Housing and travel is only available for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention visit in Atlanta, Georgia.
- 9. What can students expect throughout the academic year?**
Students will participate in educational and professional development seminars.
- 10. I am not an underrepresented student. Can I apply to the MCH-LEARN program?**
All students interested in working in Maternal Child Health fields are welcome to apply.
- 11. Can international students participate in the MCH-LEARN program?**
International students (i.e., students with F1 or K1 visa) are not eligible.
- 12. Can graduate students participate in the MCH-LEARN program?**
The program is for undergraduate students. Graduate students cannot participate in the MCH-LEARN program.
- 13. Does the MCH-LEARN program count towards academic credit?**
The student's university/college determines if academic credit will be granted for participating in the MCH-LEARN program.
- 14. Are the program dates flexible (i.e., start at a later date; take time off to work)?**
All students must commit to the entire 10-week program and academic program activities September 2019 through April 2020.
- 15. Where can I apply to MCH-LEARN program?**
The online application is available at KennedyKrieger.org/MCH-LEARN.
- 16. Can students without health insurance apply to the MCH-LEARN program?**
Students without health insurance can apply to the MCH-LEARN program. All accepted students must have health insurance.
- 17. Are meals program sponsored?**
Breakfast and lunch are sponsored by the MCH-LEARN during the Baltimore and CDC orientation.
- 18. Who can write my recommendation letters?**
Two letters of reference from professors, clinical advisors, or research advisors at your current university are required. Letters from teacher assistants are not allowed. Reference format includes a brief questionnaire and up to 850-word letter of recommendation that must be added to the electronic form provided to the referee. **The deadline for letters of recommendation is January 31.**
- 19. Who should recommendation letters be addressed to?**
Please address recommendation letters to the MCH-LEARN Selection Committee.
- 20. Is there a standard recommendation form to complete?**
There is a questionnaire and recommended questions to address for the letter of recommendation.

21. When should I expect a decision letter?

Decision letters are emailed the end of March.

22. How many hours during the week do student devote to their summer public health project and program activities?

Students devote a minimum of 40 hours per week during the summer program to their assigned public health leadership project.

23. How many applicants are selected to participate in the MCH-LEARN Program?

The number applicants vary from year to year. Slots are competitive.

24. Where can more information on the MCH-LEARN program be found?

Please visit the MCH-LEARN website, KennedyKrieger.org/MCH-LEARN, for more information.

All program activities are contingent on federal funding.

**Address additional questions to
MCH-LEARN@KennedyKrieger.org**