What is the Summer Health Care Internship Program?

This program brings students and health care employers together, giving students experience in a health care environment and employers the opportunity to become more involved in their community. Participating Minnesota hospitals, clinics, nursing facilities and home health agencies employ students between Memorial Day (May 27) and Labor Day (Sept. 2) for at least minimum wage; up to half of the intern’s total hourly wages will be reimbursed. Priority will be given to programs seeking to recruit interns who represent minority communities.

Possible areas of employment/observation

- Radiology
- Laboratory
- Occupational Therapy
- Nutrition/Dietary Services
- Business office
- Transport
- Pharmacy
- Activities/Special Events
- Inpatient Care
- Respiratory Therapy
- Chaplaincy
- Social Services
- Music Therapy

What are the employer’s obligations?

- Employers must pay at least minimum wage.
- Employers must provide an application for students and interview candidates for the internship.
- Employers must seek to create a diverse pool of interns.
- Employers must provide an orientation for the students.
- Employers can employ no more than five students from any one school.
- Employers must employ at least one secondary student for each post-secondary student employed (if there are sufficient qualifying secondary-student applicants).
- Employers must be willing to evaluate the program.

How can facilities participate?

Any Minnesota hospital, clinic, nursing facility or home health agency can participate in the Summer Health Care Intern Program by completing the application.

Minnesota Hospital Association will contact all applicants to establish a grant agreement.
What students qualify for the program?

Students must have completed either their junior or senior year of high school and must intend to complete graduation requirements. Or, they must be a post-secondary student enrolled in a Minnesota educational institution or be a resident of Minnesota enrolled in an out-of-state program. Post-secondary students must be enrolled, but not graduating in 2018, in a two- or four-year health care degree program, with the intention of completing the program.

How do I hire the interns?

You should begin by contacting local high school and post-secondary health care careers programs or by placing an advertisement in area newspapers. Employers should have students complete an application and then conduct interviews with qualified candidates. You should request a letter of reference from students as well. Your recruiting and selection efforts should attempt to create a diverse intern group that represents your community. School counselors and students may also contact your facility.

Possible intern duties

- Register patients/residents/clients
- Clean and sterilize instruments
- Schedule appointments
- Nutritional services
- Social activities/special events
- Clean, restock & prepare exam rooms
- Prepare and pull charts
- Transport patients/residents/clients
- Prepare examination rooms
- Accompany residents to appointments
- Companionship
- Health care data collection

Students should not be expected to perform duties not associated with the health care industry such as mowing lawns or general maintenance.

How do I apply?

Employers may apply online at www.mnhospitals.org/SHCIP beginning March 4 until April 12, 2019.

Who do I contact with questions?

If you have questions regarding the Summer Health Care Internship Program, please contact Sarah Bohnet at the Minnesota Hospital Association at (651) 603-3494 or sbohnet@mnhospitals.org.

“Through this internship, I have learned more about working in a hospital than I thought possible. This internship has helped me choose to stay in the medical field.”
— Summer Health Care Internship Student

“It has been a wonderful experience having our intern on our campus this summer. Our seniors really enjoyed him and so did the staff.”
— Summer Health Care Internship Employer

“The knowledge and experience I gained through my experiences this summer will be applied to all my future positions. I would like to thank everyone who made this summer possible.”
— Summer Health Care Internship Student

“I learned a lot this summer and had a lot of fun doing so. My internship was in line with what I want to pursue for a career, but with a new twist. It really opened my eyes. All along I was learning how a health care system works. It has been very beneficial to apply all my bookwork from school to a real life situation.”
— Summer Health Care Internship Student