



TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER

The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research is seeking a first year master's graduate student in public health, public policy, environmental sciences, statistics, or a related science field for a research training opportunity. To foster a master's student research and allow active research training and mentoring in order to bring new workforces into the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program (TRDRP) research priority areas (see the priorities at: <https://www.trdrp.org/research-priorities>), TRDRP provides supplemental funding to existing TRDRP awards. The candidate will have an opportunity to work with the Principal Investigator (PI) and study team with research and administrative activities for a quasi-experimental study to examine the impact of the state and local policies on smoking behaviors more importantly on the reductions of tobacco-related disparities among vulnerable populations. The study links existing state-, county- and city-level tobacco control policies and city-level data on social determinants of health with the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) data. The study uses a mixed-methods approach, key informant interviews with policymakers and stakeholders will also be conducted to better understand their opinions on benefits and barriers in policy adoption and enforcement.

Under the mentorship of the PI and other co-investigators, the student will have opportunities to further advance skills in both quantitative and qualitative data analyses, as well as research project management, such as organizing and summarizing outputs from data analyses, conducting literature searches, and synthesizing study findings, drafting summary reports and manuscripts, assisting the development of presentation materials, managing database and files, and organizing meetings. It is a multiple-year project, the work may be used to fulfill graduate study requirements.

Qualifications:

First-year master-level graduate students in Community Health Sciences, Health Policy and Management, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Environmental Health Sciences, or a related field are welcome to apply. Familiarity with public health and policy research methods and quantitative or qualitative data analyses is preferred. The details are as follows:

- Experiences with qualitative data collection (e.g. interviews and focus group) and analyses (e.g. coding and theme development using software such as Atlas.ti).
- Demonstrated preparations for working with data using software packages (e.g. SAS, STATA, R, SPSS, and Arc GIS).
- Knowledge or interests in sophisticated statistical modeling, such as Difference in Difference regression and interaction analyses.
- Excellent technical writing and editing skills.
- Strong organizational skills and demonstrated ability to appropriately prioritize work without compromising the quality of work.
- Must be detail-orientated with strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Endnote.

Other Details: GSR salary level commensurate with education and experience. Maximum duration: 2 years.

How to Apply: Please submit a resume, writing sample, and a cover letter to Ying-Ying Meng (PI) at yymeng@ucla.edu before March 31, 2022. The cover letter should describe: 1) your reasons for pursuing a career in tobacco control or tobacco-related research or any research area covered under the current TRDRP research priorities. 2) Briefly describe why you are interested in this training opportunity and your potential role in the project. 3) Describe in your own words your educational background, life experiences, and/or other contributions to science, research, or community that may be predictive of future success in your research career. Even if your participation in the proposed research project will be your first experience, describe your previous experiences that demonstrate your academic preparation and/or work ethic. And 4) State your career goals and describe how the proposed research or tobacco control training will further your advancement toward these goals. If applicable, describe how the proposed training may contribute towards ending California tobacco-related disease disparities.