

Summer 2019 Graduate Health Policy Intern:

California Health Benefits Review Program

University of California, Berkeley



2019 Internship Timeline

December 1- January 18: Candidates submit a cover letter and CV/resume via email to ana.ashby@chbrp.org.

January 19 - February 3: Application review

February 4 – February 15: Interview candidates

March 1 –March 15: Extend offer(s)

June 1- August 31: Internship (40 hours/week)

Internship Description

The California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP), housed at the University of California, Berkeley, is recruiting for a Graduate Health Policy Intern. This is a summer-long, paid internship (40 hours/week), and may be extendable on a part-time basis into the fall. The pay for the position will be \$22 - \$26 per hour, depending on experience.

Established in 2002, CHBRP responds to requests from the California State Legislature for analysis of legislation related to health insurance. CHBRP's interns work with a small team of staff analysts, as well as CHBRP's multi-disciplinary set of faculty and researchers from various UC campuses.

Visit our Intern page to learn more about past interns' experiences and projects at http://www.chbrp.org/about_chbrp/intern_recruitment.php

Intern Duties

Under the supervision of the Associate Director, the health policy intern will:

- Produce reports on health policy topics
- Track the progress of California state bills CHBRP has analyzed and attend legislative hearings with CHBRP analysts
- Help analyze and review regulatory developments
- Assist staff in preparing agendas and taking minutes at CHBRP's annual stakeholder meetings
- Other duties, as assigned

Required Qualifications

- BA/BS with major in a related field
- Interest in and enthusiasm to learn about public policy and analysis. Ability to interpret essential information from reports and/or policy briefs
- Basic understanding of statistical concepts
- Experience with Microsoft Word and Excel
- Strong writing skills and ability to prioritize multiple tasks and adhere to deadlines

Preferred Qualifications

- Candidate for master's degree (or doctorate) in public health, public policy, or other related field
- Familiarity with health policy/health services research and analysis
- UC status strongly preferred
- Good problem-solving and communication skills

About CHBRP

As per its authorizing statute, the California Health Benefits Review Program (CHBRP) responds to requests from the California Legislature to provide an independent analysis of the medical, financial, and public health impacts of proposed health insurance benefit mandates (and repeals) as well as other topics related to health insurance. The program was established in 2002 and reauthorized in 2006, 2009, 2015, and 2017.

An analytic staff in the University of California, Berkeley, supports a task force of faculty and staff from several campuses of the University of California to complete each analysis within a 60-day period, usually before the Legislature begins formal consideration of a mandate or repeal bill. A certified, independent actuary helps estimate the financial impacts.

A strict conflict-of-interest policy ensures that the analyses are undertaken without financial or other interests that could bias the results. A National Advisory Council (NAC), drawn from experts from outside the state of California, provides balanced representation among groups with an interest in health insurance benefit mandates or repeals, and reviews draft studies to ensure their quality before they are transmitted to the Legislature. Each report summarizes scientific evidence relevant to the proposed mandate or proposed mandate repeal, but does not make recommendations, deferring policy decision-making to the Legislature. The State funds this work through an annual assessment on health plans and insurers in California.

To produce its reports to the Legislature, CHBRP conducts literature reviews, assesses medical effectiveness, models cost impacts, and estimates the public health impact of each

benefit mandate utilizing input from health plans and the public. Faculty from each of three teams (Medical Effectiveness, Cost, and Public Health), actuarial consultants, and CHBRP analytic staff work collaboratively to develop each analysis. Each report is reviewed internally by faculty from the three teams, and by actuarial consultants. Finally, a subgroup of NAC members, experts from outside the state of California selected to provide balanced representation among groups with an interest in health insurance benefit mandates, reviews the draft analysis and provides feedback. This series of reviews is designed to ensure the report's accuracy, objectivity, responsiveness to the legislative request, completeness, and clarity. The final analysis is sent to the Legislature and placed on the CHBRP website by the end of the 60-day time period. Examples of recently analyzed bills include:

- AB 1860 Oral Anti-Cancer Treatment
- AB 2384 Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction
- SB 399 Autism
- SB 1322 Comprehensive Medication Management in Medi-Cal

UC continually evaluates the products, processes, and policies of CHBRP to ensure that the program is in compliance with the requirements of its authorizing statute. In addition, CHBRP documents its methods to the public to support the academic rigor, objectivity, and transparency of its work.

More on CHBRP at www.CHBRP.org.