



Summer 2026 Internship Opportunities

CHHS has one Summer 2026 internship opportunity. The Center continues to offer opportunities for students to be engaged in community and professional settings where they may practice their skills and gain experience with a variety of audiences and public health programming as part of internship experiences offered.

Students are encouraged to visit the CHHS website at www.mtsu.edu/chhs to download and complete an application packet. Completed packets should be submitted to Dr. Cynthia Chafin MCHES®, NBC-HWC at Cynthia.chafin@Mtsu.edu for consideration. Students should indicate on the application which project is of interest when there is more than one opportunity posted.

Internship Project #1 – Safe Stars and Youth Athlete Mental Health – Program Evaluation, Data Analysis, and Health Communication

Project Description: This intern will support the work being implemented as part of the MTSU CHHS Safe Stars and TCAPES Youth Athlete Mental Health projects. Safe Stars is a collaboration between the Tennessee Department of Health and the Vanderbilt Youth Sports Health Center. The Safe Stars Initiative recognizes youth sports leagues throughout Tennessee for providing the highest level of safety for their young athletes. Safe Stars consists of three levels: Gold, Silver, and Bronze, and involves implementation of policies around topics such as concussion education, weather safety and injury prevention. TCAPES (Tennessee Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Education and Support) is a statewide program designed to integrate mental and behavioral health care into pediatric primary care by providing training, consultation, and resource support to primary care providers, with the overall purpose of improving access to timely, effective mental health services for children and adolescents across Tennessee. [tn.gov]

This intern will work with the MTSU team to assist with data analysis of the Safe Stars program and using evaluation findings to inform the development of fact sheets and other materials designed to communicate key outcomes and recommendations to multiple stakeholder audiences. The intern will also work on the TCAPES Youth Athlete Mental Health Project by assisting with the development of fact sheets and social messaging media relevant to a new training curriculum and related mental health messaging.

The Center will offer opportunities for interns to be engaged in community and professional settings when possible specific to Safe Stars and other CHHS projects, where they may practice their skills and gain experience with a variety of audiences and public health programming as part of this internship experience.

Responsibilities under supervision of CHHS staff may include:

- Assist with data collection and reporting efforts.
- Research and learn more about sports injury prevention and mental health and youth athletes.
- Research best practices for social media.
- Develop a social media calendar and posts/infographics for a multi-year campaign focusing on Safe Stars and sports injury prevention and mental health of youth athletes and education of coaches in this area.
- Identify with support from the CHHS team areas of interest to include in fact sheets specific to Safe Stars and sports injury prevention and mental health of youth athletes.
- Assist in development of content for fact sheets to be used by TDH with current and prospective Safe Stars organizations and coaches working with youth athletes.
- Participate with preceptor and/or CHHS staff in meetings, calls, and other communications with other departments, faculty, staff, community partners, and funders pertinent to project activities.
- Completing weekly progress reports for CHHS as well as those of the sponsoring academic department.
- Participate in monthly CHHS team meetings.

Requirements

- The student should be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program or be a recent graduate.
- Undergraduate and graduate students applying for this internship should be willing to commit at least 180 hours to the internship; however, CHHS is committed to working with students and faculty to ensure that departmental requirements are considered when determining total internship hours.
- Ideal candidates will be proficient in Microsoft Office applications and able to follow instructions while engaging professionally with CHHS staff, members of the campus community, community partners, and funders.
- Strong organizational skills and excellent verbal and written communication skills are required.
- Ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team.
- Interest in public health, youth sports, mental health promotion, or health communication is preferred.
- Knowledge of Canva, Venngage, or other design platforms is preferred.
- Experience with basic video editing or digital media tools is helpful but not required.

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