



Organization Name:

Pima County Health Department — Consumer Health & Food Safety (CHFS)

Organization Background:

The Consumer Health & Food Safety (CHFS) Division of the Pima County Health Department protects community health through prevention and risk-based education, inspections, and regulatory oversight. CHFS permits and inspects food establishments, public and semi-public swimming pools/spas, hotels/motels, mobile home/RV parks, mobile food units, and temporary events, while responding to public health nuisances and conducting vector-borne disease surveillance and preparedness. The team provides food handler and pool operator certification, investigates complaints, and publishes inspection reports for transparency. CHFS collaborates with community and university partners—as well as state and federal agencies—to educate businesses and the public on preventing foodborne and waterborne illness and maintaining safe environments across Pima County.

<https://www.pima.gov/2024/Consumer-Health-and-Food-Safety>

Internship Project Title

CHFS Community Illness Prevention, Outreach, and Regulatory Analysis Internship

Project Description:

Overview & scope.

The CHFS Community Protection, Outreach & Regulatory Analysis Internship can provide applied rotations across Environmental Health areas such as: food safety, aquatics (public/semi-public pools/spas), lodging/mobile/RV parks and schools, and vector-borne disease surveillance. Interns learn regulatory practice, inspection methods, risk communication, and data analysis—then translate those skills into practical operator resources and measurable improvements in community protection.

Desired/expected activities.

- Shadow Environmental Health teams during routine, complaint, and enforcement inspections; observe CHFS rating standards and Active Managerial Control (AMC).
- Support aquatics oversight (barriers/entrapment prevention, closure criteria, corrective action checklists).
- Participate in vector surveillance (trapping, species ID, West Nile testing workflow) and summarize weekly patterns.
- Assist Plan Review/Business Resources with mobile food unit and HACCP/variance intake/support materials.
- Contribute to outreach by refreshing a handout/FAQ and drafting a brief forum/office-hours agenda for operators.

- Complete one focused risk-factor mini-analysis (e.g., cold holding or barrier violations) and propose a targeted intervention.

Specialized skills needed.

- Coursework/experience in public/environmental health, microbiology/epidemiology, or food science or closely related field.
- Clear written and verbal communication with businesses and the public; customer-service mindset.
- Data skills (Excel/Sheets; basic charts/tables; R-Studio); comfort learning Survey123/GIS for vector work.
- Strong organization and follow-through; ability to work early field hours as needed.

Units/departments involved.

- CHFS Field Inspections (Food, Aquatics, Lodging/Schools)
- CHFS Vector Control Program
- CHFS Plan Review & Business Resources
- CHFS Training & Standardization Team
- Illness Investigation Team for waterborne, vectorborne, or foodborne illness

Expected outcomes & deliverables.

- “Public Health Practice Foundations (CHFS)” portfolio: (1) one cross-program analysis memo (3–5 pages) and (2) one community-facing deliverable (operator playbook/checklist/FAQ), plus
- a 10–30 minute summary presentation to staff at term end.

Deadlines & work-schedule expectations.

- Term window: Fall, Spring, or Summer (10–16 weeks).
- Hours: typically 10–20 hours/week; **vector field days may start early (seasonal May–Oct is typical)**.
- Locations: Abrams Public Health Center (3950 S Country Club Rd); occasional work at Northwest Service Center (1010 W Miracle Mile) for mobile food activities
- Office cadence: observe CHFS service hours and posted closures; schedule adjusted during first-Thursday morning closure.
- Milestones: Week 1–2 onboarding; Week 3–8 rotations and project execution; Week 9–12 portfolio wrap-up and presentation.

Internship project keywords (check all that apply).

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Health Disparities | ☐ Maternal/Infant Health |
| ☒ Public Health Preparedness | ☐ Tobacco Use |
| ☒ Collaborations with Community | ☒ Injury/Violence Prevention |
| ☒ Collaborations with University | ☐ Immunization |
| ☐ Community health service | ☐ Infectious Disease |
| ☐ Physical Activity | ☐ Oral Health |
| ☐ Substance Abuse | ☐ Evaluation |
| ☐ Mental Health | ☐ Policy Development |
| ☐ Access to care | ☒ Program Planning |
| ☐ Nutrition | ☒ Data Analysis |
| ☐ Reproductive/Sexual Health | ☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text. |
| ☒ Environmental Health | |

When: When do you want the work done? Check all that apply.

☒ Fall Semester

☒ Spring Semester

☒ Summer Term

☒ I want this listing to remain active indefinitely and we will accept applications from students for any upcoming semester.

☐ This listing is only for a specific semester/term: _____

Where:

Organization Mailing Address: *Consumer Health & Food Safety* at 3950 S Country Club Rd, Suite 2301

Address where Student will work (if different from above): *Click or tap here to enter text.*

☒ Check here if the student may have the option to work remotely from a site not listed above for all or part of this project. **In-person preferred for at least 80% of the internship** a remote work on a case by case basis.

Student Characteristics:

We're looking for a self-starter student who:

- Is motivated, detail-oriented, organized, and dependable—able to follow inspection procedures and document findings clearly.
- Communicates professionally with businesses and the public; comfortable asking questions and explaining requirements in plain language (public speaking for operator forums/office hours is a plus).
- Brings basic data skills (Excel/Sheets; simple charts/tables) and is willing to learn program tools used in CHFS (e.g., Survey123 for vector data collection).
- Adapts well to fieldwork and team rotations (food, aquatics, vector); can handle early-morning field starts during vector season and travel between sites as needed (may need to meet County driving clearance requirements).
- Demonstrates a customer-service mindset, cultural humility, and a desire to translate policy into useful, operator-friendly guidance.

Level of Expertise Needed: Do you wish to request an MPH program intern or an undergraduate public health program intern?

Undergraduate:

The internship will help undergraduates connect classroom concepts to practice through shadowing inspections (food, aquatics, vector), basic data summaries, and operator-facing materials (e.g., checklists/FAQs). By the end of the term, undergraduates will complete one cross-program analysis memo and one community-facing deliverable, plus a brief staff presentation.

Graduate:

Graduate students will apply advanced knowledge and skills (policy analysis, risk-factor assessment, data visualization, stakeholder engagement) to solve practical health problems and produce ****at least two agency-based deliverables**** (e.g., an operator playbook for aquatics and a risk-factor mini-analysis with a targeted intervention), along with a staff presentation.

Both experiences prepare students for future employment.

☐ MPH

☒ Undergraduate

☒ Either

Supervision

Lauren Dinauer REHS/RS — Deputy Division Manager, Health Department (CHFS). Lauren oversees CHFS program operations and intern rotations across food safety, aquatics, lodging/mobile/RV parks, and vector surveillance. Contact: Lauren.Dinauer@pima.gov • Desk 520-724-4647 • Mobile 520-279-5083.

Compensation/Benefits/Professional Development

Funding varies by term and program. Availability and rate depend on current grants and budget. At this time, no funding is available to support internships.

Interns may participate in CHFS internal training (inspection methods, program standards, AMC), vector modules and data workflows, and contribute to division communications (newsletter/handouts). May receive the opportunity to sit for the Certified Pool Operator Course and Exam and/or Certified Food Handler Course and Exam. External opportunities (e.g., **NEHA AEC**) may be considered when relevant and funding allows. Inclusion as a co-author on CHFS publications (newsletter articles, operator handouts) is possible based on project scope and impact.

Application Contact Information

Please reach out to Lauren.Dinauer@pima.gov to request a CHFS Internship Application Form. In the subject line please include Internship as a keyword and your name.