

SPONSOR:

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INTERNSHIP DATABASE PROJECT

Background:

The Community Health Program is the second largest Interdisciplinary Program at Tufts University. As a second major, CH enrolls approximately 75 new students each year. A key feature of CH is our Internship Program, a 180 hour field placement required for all CH students following the junior year. As an interdisciplinary program, community health students seek and participate in an exceptionally diverse range of field placements, from providing direct services, to policy analysis, to research, and program development, evaluation and advocacy. Likewise, since 1975 CHP students have worked with an equally wide range of organizations, agencies and institutions in the region.

Current Program and Rationale:

To assist students in locating an appropriate internship site, CHP maintains records of previous placements. A Microsoft Access database is maintained that contains site and internship descriptions (approx 250). This database is updated each semester and is searchable by keywords. Corresponding student evaluations of each internship placement are kept in paper files. The current system is encumbered by numerous limitations:

- The database is maintained and accessible only at the CHP Office. Students must come to the CHP to search. This has been extremely limiting, especially for students who study abroad during their junior year.
- The database is cumbersome, difficult to maintain, and lacks dynamic features of comparable programs.
- Student evaluations are currently paper-based and not linked to site data. Important information is difficult to access and has been vulnerable to loss.

Project Description:

We propose the development of a web-based program to expand the capacity and utility of our Internship Database. The software should facilitate remote password-protected access for CHP majors, enhanced data entry capacity for staff and students, and expanded search and matching features.

Benefits:

- Existing data and structure upon which to build
- Provides a direct benefit to Tufts students

- Will improve accessibility and utility
- Will enhance student input and quality of information
- Facilitates University-Community Networking