

Predoctoral Research Fellowships Penn State University

The Penn State Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS) has NIH predoctoral fellowships in tobacco regulatory science. A central theme of the Penn State TCORS is the study of tobacco regulatory science in vulnerable and minority populations. This will be accomplished through three complementary research projects that share common methodologies, common core multidisciplinary approaches, and common leadership with the overarching aim of relevancy for tobacco regulatory policies.

The overall goal of the Penn State TCORS is to inform the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the development and evaluation of science-based tobacco product regulations. The TCORS will use scientific methods in clinical and laboratory studies to evaluate harm associated with “modified risk tobacco products”, or tobacco products that reduce the risk of disease or exposure to tobacco toxicants, relative to existing commercially marketed products. The Penn State TCORS will focus on studies of reduced nicotine content cigarettes in humans. Qualified individuals should have a strong interest in the area of tobacco regulation. Ideal candidates will have a background in addictions or nicotine research, be well organized, experience with working in a multidisciplinary team, and have good writing skills. Preferred undergraduate degrees include: biobehavioral health, health policy administration, health care, public health, or general sciences.

Interested individuals may choose to receive their PhD through Penn State’s Department of Biobehavioral Health (<http://bbh.hhd.psu.edu/graduate>) or the Department of Health Policy and Administration (<http://www.hhd.psu.edu/hpa/graduate>).

Scholars will conduct an approved doctoral dissertation involving a tobacco-focused research project and scientific paper with guidance of the TCORS mentoring team. Scholars will make presentations at TCORS-wide meetings; scientific meetings; and submit papers for peer-reviewed publication.

Each student will be awarded a full cost stipend for 3 years, extending their training to their dissertation.

Two second year pre-doctoral students will be recruited for years 2 and 3 (2014 and 2015) of the TCOR program for a total of four pre-doc trainees.

How to Apply

The process of applying for admission to Penn State’s Graduate School requires the following application materials, some of which are submitted to the Graduate School (Part 1) and others of which are sent directly to the BBH or HPA graduate program (Part 2A or Part 2B):

Part 1 - Apply to the Graduate School at Penn State

Every applicant is required to submit an online application to the Graduate School. If you are ready to proceed to the application but have NOT read the Graduate School requirements, please visit that website at <http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/index.cfm/prospective-students/requirements/>. The online application can be accessed through the [Graduate School Admissions and Program](#)

[Information Portal](#). In addition to the items delivered to the Graduate School, formal admission to the doctoral program depends on satisfactory completion of the candidacy examination. Doctoral students must demonstrate competency in spoken English including reading, technical writing, listening, and speaking.

Part 2A- Apply to the BBH Graduate Program

Requirements for the BBH graduate program can be found at:

<http://bbh.hhd.psu.edu/graduate/graduate-program-overview>.

All BBH students must take five core courses in biobehavioral health (total of 15 credits), 6 cross-training credits in HPA courses and 6 additional credits in TCORS courses. The remainder of each student's program is designed individually in consultation with the student's mentor team.

- OR -

Part 2B- Apply to the HPA Graduate Program

Requirements for the HPA graduate program can be found at:

<http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/hpa/graduate/phd>. All HPA students must take five core courses in HPA (total of 12 credits), 6 cross-training credits in BBH courses and 6 additional credits in TCORS courses. The remainder of each student's program is designed individually in consultation with the student's mentor team.

Application deadline is 1/14 for Biobehavioral Health (BBH) and 2/1 for Health Policy and Administration (HPA).

Contact

Please contact Co-Directors, Drs. Roger T. Anderson, rtanders@psu.edu and/or Marianne M. Hillemeier, mmh18@psu.edu, regarding any questions about the TCORS Training Program.