



All people will achieve their optimal lifespan with the best possible quality of health in every stage of life.
People in all communities will be protected from infectious, environmental, occupational and terrorist threats.

Epidemiology Elective Program for Senior Medical and Veterinary Students

The purpose of the elective is to provide an introduction to preventive medicine, public health and the principles of applied epidemiology to senior medical and veterinary students. Elective students are offered the opportunity to actively assist in epidemiologic investigations of infectious diseases and areas such as cancer, congenital malformations, environmental and occupational diseases, injuries, chronic diseases, and reproductive health.

Most elective assignments are based at CDC headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. However, assignments to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health in Cincinnati, Ohio, Morgantown, West Virginia, or Anchorage, Alaska, can be arranged. Occasionally, students are assigned to a state or local health department; the Indian Health Service in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the Division of Vector-borne Infectious Diseases in Fort Collins, Colorado; or the Arctic Investigation Lab in Anchorage, Alaska.

Elective students often work closely with a select group of "medical detectives" known as Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Officers. Many of these officers were former participants in the Epidemiology Elective Program.

Assignment Schedule

The elective is offered each year from September through early June. Assignments are scheduled for a period of 6--8 weeks depending on the student's program of study and elective schedule. Every attempt is made to assign each student to an area of health concern of their choice. Placements are made in June for students beginning their elective in September through December, and in September for students arriving January through June.

Students who are selected for the program must pay the cost of the round-trip transportation to Atlanta and their living expenses during the elective. However, travel and living expenses related to field investigations away from Atlanta are paid by CDC.

For More Information

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