

SOPH GA Position Announcement
John D. Bower School of Population Health
University of Mississippi Medical Center

The Center for Telehealth at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) is a national leader in telehealth innovations. On February 16, 2022, it was announced that the Center for Telehealth was awarded \$17.6 million from the Mississippi Department of Education to create a telehealth delivery system within kindergarten through 12th grade schools. This funding is supported by the American Rescue Plan for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief to provide Mississippi public school students with greater access to care including preventive health care during school hours. For students in rural areas of the state, telehealth will offer easy access to preventive health services to students who otherwise be hours away.

As part of this award, a team of faculty in the Department of Preventive Medicine and the Department of Population Health Science will use the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model to implement evidence-based school health strategies to address obesity and cardiometabolic comorbidities in public school students in Mississippi. Our interdisciplinary team will collaborate with school districts (n=144) and school nurses (n=615) to adapt and implement multi-level intervention strategies that cultivate a sustainable school health culture.

Our goals are to (1) develop cross-disciplinary curricula to promote individual, familial, and community health knowledge and skills in students; (2) establish school health councils to develop policies and programs that connect health with academic performance; (3) build the capacity to deliver lifestyle interventions by training school nurses as lifestyle coaches, and (4) develop an app-based health coaching lifestyle intervention for students at risk for cardiometabolic diseases. This initiative will reach approximately 440,000 students (K – 12th grade) across in Mississippi.

Graduate Assistantships: There are openings for two graduate assistant positions with a competitive stipend consistent with the NIH's allowable rate, as well as some offset of tuition. This position is competitive and not need-based. The graduate assistants will be matched with faculty leading the implementation and evaluation of lifestyle change intervention strategies using telehealth modalities to prevent cardiometabolic diseases in Mississippi public schools. This will provide Doctoral students with real-world implementation science experience.

Interested candidates are invited to apply up until the deadline, June 1, 2022. The graduate assistantship will begin on August 1, 2022, and will be evaluated each semester, with continuation contingent on acceptable performance. Information regarding Doctoral degree programs in population health can be found [here](#).

Applicant Eligibility:

- Earned Master's degree in population health, health promotion, public health, education, or related field
- Demonstrate aptitude for scholarly writing
- Applicants with a background and/or interest in digital health communication and app development are preferred but not required
- Awards are contingent upon acceptance into a Population Health Master's degree program at the John D. Bower School of Population Health. The [application](#) deadline is June 1, 2022.

Expectations:

- Positions are in-person and presence on the UMMC campus is required. A working space with a desktop computer and monitor will be provided.
- Awardees will be expected to remain in good academic and professional standing in accord with the [SOPH policies, procedures, and behavioral standards](#).
- Students on a Leave of Absence beyond one academic semester, who withdraw from their academic program, or perform below Good Academic standing forfeit their Award.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- App development to support lifestyle change in youth
- Deliver lifestyle coaching using telehealth modalities to students at risk for cardiometabolic diseases
- Tailor and implement evidence-based intervention strategies to prevent cardiometabolic risks
- Community engagement and outreach
- Research evaluation
- Data monitoring, data reduction, and reporting

Skills Training:

- Digital health communication and technologies
- Protection of human subjects
- Lifestyle Coach training
- Implementation evaluation
- Population health management using electronic medical records
- Building and sustaining collaborative partnerships

Award:

- \$34,500 stipend per annum for 2-years with the potential for up to 4-years (20-hours per week). Awardees do not receive paid leave or benefits and taxes must be paid by the individual.
- \$1,500 in tuition per semester for up to 4 semesters (\$6,000)

Application:

- Interested candidates should complete their online application on or before the July 1, 2022 deadline. A complete application packet includes a curriculum vitae; a personal statement; a brief statement of past research experience, current interests, and future plans; a personal statement on diversity and health equity; and three letters of recommendation emailed by the referee directly to PopHealth@umc.edu by the application deadline with the Subject: *DOE GA – Last Name of Applicant*
 - **Personal statement.** 250 words or less.
 - What makes you unique and a strong candidate for this Award? (4 – 6 sentences)
 - How have your lived experiences shaped your life choices? (4 – 6 sentences)
 - What led to your interest in population health and implementation science? (4 – 6 sentences)
 - **Statement of research interests.** 300 words or less.
 - Describe your past research experiences. (4 – 6 sentences)
 - Describe your current research interests and how they relate to school-based and/or population health. (6 – 8 sentences)
 - Outline your future research goals. (5 – 6 sentences)
 - **Statement of commitment to diversity and health equity.** 250 words or less.
This may include:
 - **Statement of values** related to your understanding and commitment to diversity, inclusion, and/or equity in population health. (4 – 5 sentences)
 - **Examples of experiences** that demonstrate your commitment to supporting a diversity of perspectives in the classroom, campus, and/or community. (6 – 8 sentences)
 - **Future plans** for continuing to advance inclusive excellence, diversity, or equity in your research, teaching, and service. (2 – 4 sentences)

[Click here](#) to complete your application for this GA Position.

Please direct all questions to Dr. Abigail Gamble agamble2@umc.edu.