Position: Graduate Project Assistant

The Project Assistant is an appointment under Geospatial and Population Studies (GPS) at the University of New Mexico. GPS has several projects underway related to community health in New Mexico and is looking to add a Project Assistant to our team. GPS is currently working on developing a measure of neighborhood distress/risk environment for all of New Mexico that will support research on risk behaviors and substance use surveillance in New Mexico. As part of this initiative, GPS is collecting data that will be used to identify areas where there is a high probability for substance use activity. The Project Assistant would assist with identifying data sources and requesting access to these data. The Project Assistant may also be asked to contact people in the state who are knowledgeable on substance use in New Mexican communities. The RA will be expected to provide written reports of their progress. This work may include travel to different regions in New Mexico to conduct site audits and assess the physical environment characteristics that might relate to non-medical prescription drug use, opioid use, injection drug use, health care use, and overdose. Although GIS experience is not required, a Project Assistant with GIS experience may also be asked to assist with mapping and spatial analyses of the data using GIS software. The risk environment measure developed for this project could be available for a student to use in their own research.

Depending on the research interests and skills of the RA, the RA may be asked to assist in other initiatives related to demography and population health, including understanding population changes in New Mexico and the expansion of research related to successful aging of Vietnamese Seniors in Albuquerque.

Position duties:

- Researching and collecting data through internet searches and outreach to city or county agencies, utilizing city, county and state-level data sources.
- Supporting the research team in preparing manuscripts for publication, including conducting literature reviews and preparing tables and figures.
- Collaborate with researchers on the team as needed.

Minimum Qualifications

- Enrollment in degree seeking program at UNM.
- Ability to understand and follow specific instructions and procedures.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively and professionally utilizing advanced written and verbal skills for in-person, phone or email communications.
- Graduate-level standing pursuing a degree in Population Health, Public Health, Human Development and Family Studies, Sociology, Geography, Psychology or related field.

Preferred Qualifications

- Strong understanding of the Opioid Epidemic in New Mexico and factors that contribute to risk environments.
- Ability to work independently with limited supervision and in a team to accomplish project goals.
- Experience with interviewing or similar interactions over the phone or Zoom.
• Experience with GIS research and analysis is helpful, though not required.
• Ability to utilize available resources and information to resolve problems independently.

Required documents: CV/resume, cover letter, and writing sample (class research paper or published article).

Please contact Gail Mercer (gmercer@unm.edu or gps@unm.edu) to apply.