Cancer Policy Internship Program

Internship Description

Primary Preceptor
Elizabeth (Betsy) Shenkman, PhD
Professor & Department Chair, Health Outcomes & Biomedical Informatics
Associate Director, Community Outreach and Engagement, UF Health Cancer Center
Clinical & Translational Research Building, 2004 Mowry Road, Suite 2245, PO Box 100177,
Gainesville, FL 32610-0177
Email: eshenkman@ufl.edu; Phone: (352) 294-5966

Washington Contact
Sarah Mathias
Assistant Vice President, Federal Government Relations, University of Florida
444 North Capitol St, NW Suite 322
Washington DC, 20001
Email: smathias@ufl.edu; Phone: (202) 220-1383

Oversight
Betsy Shenkman, Thomas George, Dietmar Siemann, Sarah Szurek, Sarah Mathias, Alex Krigstein,
Michael Gutter

Background & Purpose
Meaningful scientific discoveries in cancer-relevant research ultimately require implementation for
optimal societal benefit. Health care policy at the Federal level is a critical tool associated with
implementation science as well. The goal of this program is to provide an immersive experience for
graduate and professional students to better understand the processes associated with health policy.
Partnership between the UF Health Cancer Center (UFHCC), the UF Institute of Food & Agricultural
Sciences (IFAS) and the UF Office of Federal Relations is leveraged to develop this program.

Internship Description

Working with the University’s Federal Relations office in Washington, DC, Interns focus primarily on
legislative support related to health policy and gain unique exposure to the inner workings of the US
Government in the advancement of the University’s education and research missions.

We are offering two internships: one focused on cancer health policy and one focused on telehealth.
Interns are responsible for assisting the UFHCC /IFAS leadership with identifying, monitoring, and
reporting on issues of importance to the University of Florida, assisting with UF faculty and
administrator visits (in person or virtual) to Washington, DC and supporting special projects and
events. Interns also track legislative activity, attend hearings, draft hearing reports and legislative
updates, and attend higher education and coalition meetings.

Interns are expected to complete a primary project and support the continuation or completion of
secondary projects. They participate in regular calls and/or video conferences with their academic
mentor/team, demonstrate effective legislative support related to the Director’s agenda, and present
a policy brief from the primary project at the completion of their internship.

This internship is an integral and important part of the team charged with proactively supporting the
University of Florida’s agenda on a national level and in ensuring UF is a leading expert voice on
important issues. As representatives of UF, Interns are expected to conduct themselves respectfully
at all times in a manner consistent with the UF Student Code of Conduct.

Qualifications
This internship is open to any actively-enrolled UF degree-seeking graduate or professional student
in good standing, with a demonstrated interest in cancer health policy. It is essential that applicants
to this position have excellent written and verbal communications skills and strong interpersonal
skills. Successful candidates will be energetic team players as well as self-starters and able to juggle
multiple responsibilities simultaneously. Proficiency in MS Office (MS Excel and MS PowerPoint),
basic social media and a valid U.S. government issued picture ID is required.

Internship Dates
UF Fall 2021 Semester: August 23 – December 8, 2021. Intern will travel to DC at the beginning of
September.

Credits
9 credit hours through required enrollment in GMS 7979 Advanced Research or a similar course.

GMS 7979 Enrollment Point of Contact:
Corinne Flowers, Email: cwflowers@ufl.edu; Phone: (352) 294-8412