

Examining the School Environment Externship

OSU Extension Family & Community Health, Lane County Public Health and Prevention Science Program

The “Examining the School Environment Externship” is an applied prevention-based research opportunity offered through a collaboration of Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Family & Community Health, Lane County Public Health, and the University of Oregon (UO) Prevention Science Program. The Externship is designed for graduate students in Prevention Science to explore how local elementary schools create opportunities for students to make healthy choices throughout the school day.

Elementary schools are key sites for delivering nutrition and physical activity education and promoting healthy behaviors among students. However, this is typically done without consideration of the environmental context. The School Physical Activity and Nutrition Environment Toll (SPAN-ET) was developed to assess school resources and readiness to improve nutrition and physical activity environments, suggest appropriate improvement strategies, and score impacts resulting from environmentally-based treatments.

The student participating in this externship will work closely with community health educators to complete SPAN-ET assessments at Lane County elementary schools that serve lower-income populations. Externs will gain field experience from on-site assessments, including a first-hand look at what school communities are doing to improve the health of their students and how future strategies might be implemented. As time permits, participating students may also participate at other health-related OSU Extension events, county-wide.

Two positions will be available for the coming academic term. It will require an **8-16 hours per week** commitment and be worth **2-4 academic credits**. **Please include your preference for hours/credits in the cover letter**. The position is for Spring 2020 term, but could be extended, contingent on student performance.

Interested applicants should submit:

- A 1-page (single-spaced) letter of interest that outlines interest areas, relevant experience, and preference for hours/credits for the Spring 2020 term;
- A current CV; &
- Names & contact information for two academic/employment-related references.

Applications should be submitted in one email to Jillian Drewes jillian.drewes@oregonstate.edu & Dr. Liz Budd ebudd@uoregon.edu. Completed applications are due by end of day **March 15, 2020**.

*Please note that a personal car is preferred, but not required. Mileage to/from school sites will be reimbursed.