Project Title: Ohio Policy Evaluation Network

Michelle McGowan  
College of Medicine  
College of Arts & Sciences  
3418 French Hall West  
michelle.mcgowan@uc.edu  
Phone: 513-556-6453  
Fax: 513-556-6771  

Danielle Bessett  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Crosley Hall  
bessetde@ucmail.uc.edu

Project Description

The Ohio Policy Evaluation Network (OPEN) is now seeking applicants for a Summer Undergraduate Research Assistant. OPEN is comprised of faculty from Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati, Case Western Reserve University, and Cincinnati Children’s, and conducts rigorous, impactful, and forward-thinking social-science research on the reproductive health of Ohioans. Our nine interdisciplinary research projects assess reproductive health equity, access, and autonomy in the context of federal and state laws, regulations, and policies.

The undergraduate student will work primarily with UC faculty leading two individual research projects: Michelle McGowan (Pediatrics and Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies) and Danielle Bessett (Sociology). The student will have (or will secure) CITI research ethics training; follow OPEN project protocols, especially those for handling sensitive data and project security; and adhere to the OPEN team charter.

Key Responsibilities and Duties for an OPEN undergraduate researcher:
- Assist their research team leader(s) in multiple capacities. Tasks may include:
  - Reviewing literature.
  - Developing and piloting project materials such as surveys, interview guides and focus group materials.
  - Preparing regulatory paperwork, including sponsor-related reporting or materials for ethical review.
  - Processing and analyzing data, including data entry and data cleaning.
  - Contributing to research reports, abstracts, and papers to be submitted for peer-review.
  - Organizing and participating in team meetings and conference calls.
o Developing conference presentations or webinars.
  • Participate in scheduled OPEN team meetings

Applicants should know that we are committed to the highest standards of research in this project. Because abortion and contraception are politicized, this project may become the focus of public scrutiny at some point. This is unlikely to affect students, who have certain protections afforded by their trainee status via FERPA, but it is important to acknowledge up front.

Applicants will be evaluated on the following dimensions:
  • Self-motivation and organization necessary to work independently
  • Flexibility and willingness to collaborate on interdisciplinary, policy-relevant research
  • Comfort interacting with people from diverse backgrounds
  • Ability to engage professionally with those who hold opinions or undertake actions with which they personally disagree.