

Student Projects Proposal Form

If your ADH department or office would like to create a project for a college student and serve as the preceptor/supervisor for the project, here are a few helpful guidelines that you will need to follow.

Please make sure that you visit the link below to review necessary background information: <https://healthy.arkansas.gov/resources/about-adh/office-of-the-chief-science-officer/student-experience-projects/>

You will need to complete this Student Projects Proposal Form.

Please note that the information entered will be shared with interested students and displayed on the ADH public-facing website.

Please contact us if you have any questions:

Kristy Scott, DrPH, MPH; ADH Workforce Director; Phone: 501-661-2412; Email: Kristy.scott@arkansas.gov

Response was added on 10/06/2026 12:08pm.

Project/Experience Title:	Combating Zoonotic Diseases for Public Health
Type of Project/Experience: (Please select all that may apply.)	☒ Case Investigation ☒ Epidemiology ☒ Biostatistics ☒ Field Work ☒ Health Communications ☐ Health Behavior and/or Health Education ☐ Health Management and/or Policy ☒ Environmental Health Sciences ☐ Other
Primary ADH Division or Office:	☐ Division of Health Protection ☐ Division of Local Public Health ☐ Division of Health Data and Analytics ☒ Public Health Laboratory ☐ Division of Health Advancement ☐ Office of Health Communications ☐ Office of Performance Management, Quality Improvement, and Evaluation ☐ Office of Health Disparities Elimination ☐ Office of Preparedness & Emergency Response Systems ☐ Office of Finance ☐ Office of Health Information Technology ☐ Other
Primary ADH Branch	Zoonotics
Primary Mentor's Name(s):	Katelyn Lazenby
Primary Mentor's Email Address:	katelyn.lazenby@arkansas.com
Secondary Mentor's Name(s):	Stephen Hedges, or Dr. Laura Rothfeldt
Secondary Mentor's Email Address:	

Project/Experience Background:	Zoonotic diseases are those that are spread from animals to people, and can be caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites. Approximately 75% of recently emerging infectious diseases affecting humans are diseases of animal origin; approximately 60% of all human pathogens are zoonotic. Some of those diseases are transmitted through the bite of an animal, such as rabies from animals infected with the rabies virus or diseases spread through the bite of a tick or mosquito. The office of zoonotic diseases at the Arkansas Department of Health works to combat diseases from animals and the environment through investigating reports, analyzing data, educating, and promoting prevention methods.
Project/Experience Overview:	Our team is open to accepting students interested in working with any of our reportable zoonotic diseases. These diseases include: Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS), anaplasmosis, babesiosis, blastomycosis, brucellosis, Chagas disease, chikungunya, coccidioidomycosis, cryptococcus, dengue, ehrlichiosis, Hansen's disease (leprosy), hantavirus, histoplasmosis, leptospirosis, lyme disease, malaria, Q fever, rabies (or animal bites), Spotted fever rickettsia, toxoplasmosis, tularemia, West Nile virus, yellow, fever, Zika virus. Students may assist with epidemiologic investigations, data analysis, health education and outreach, or field work (collecting ticks and mosquitoes).
Skills Useful for this Project/Experience:	Some background in biology would be useful.
Benefits of this Project/Experience:	-Pick whatever disease you are interested in. -Project flexibility. -Located in the public health lab.
Eligible Students:	☒ Undergraduate ☒ Graduate
Estimated Hours per Week:	variable
Primary Office Location:	ADH public health lab
Working Environment:	☒ In-person ☐ Virtual ☐ Hybrid
Additional Notes:	Students working with data will need to be in person. Field work is done off site and will require transportation.