

PHIT Newsletter

UMASS - PUBLIC HEALTH

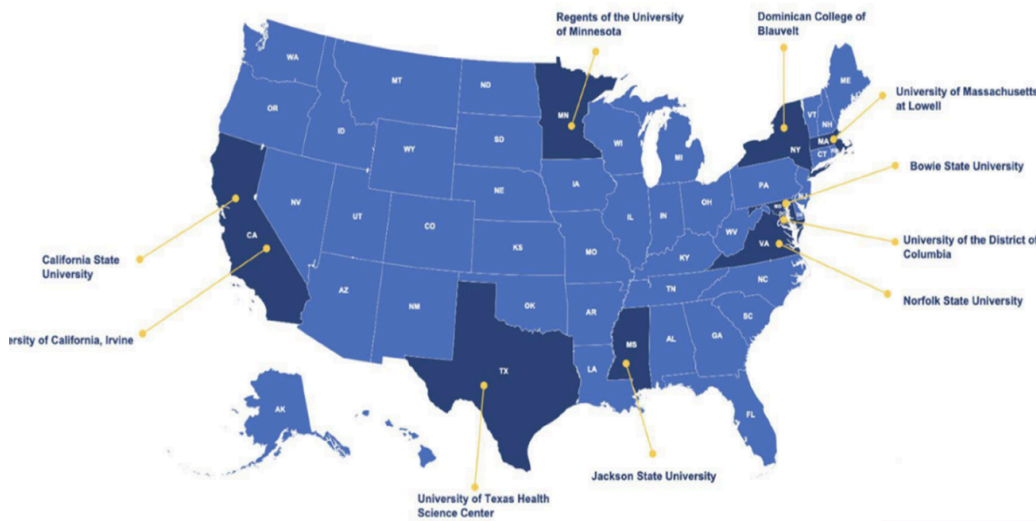
April 2025



Public Health Informatics and Technology (PHIT) A National Program

The Public Health Informatics and Technology (PHIT) program at the University of Massachusetts Lowell has had an incredible and fantastic journey so far, and it is truly a moment of great pride to be a part of such a **nationally recognized program funded by Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy (ASTP)**; previously known as Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

- **ASTP is a part of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** and acts as a resource for entire USA health system to support adoption of health information & technology
- ASTP introduced the **"Public Health Informatics & Technology (PHIT) Workforce Development Program."** which is focused on an interdisciplinary approach to data science and managing public health information using new tools and applications
- Watch the **ONC video** to learn more about the PHIT program
<https://vimeo.com/950014697/4bd0ca2be7?share=copy>



Map showcasing 10 PHIT Workforce Development Program Award Recipients

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Watch Out! - New Avenues

- We are excited to announce that this year, for eligible students, once again a **PHIT summer internship opportunity with a \$3300 stipend** will be provided. Students will get this stipend once as it is independent from the required practicum course.
- A **new Public Health Informatics and Technology (PHIT) Certificate** will be introduced and provided for Graduate PHIT students in Fall 2025.
- We are planning to roll out a **new PHIT-AR (Addiction Research) focus** for Undergraduate students.
- **PHIT Sponsored APHA Annual Conference 2025 at Washington DC** - Keep a lookout for further information for this event.



Summer 2025 Internship - \$3,300 Stipend Opportunity!

BY ADORRAH-LE KHAN



Are you passionate or wish to learn more about the field of Public Health and Information Technology (PHIT)? **We have an amazing opportunity just for you!**

The PHIT team at the UMASS Lowell Department of Public Health is thrilled to announce a **paid internship stipend opportunity for Summer 2025.**

Last summer, our PHIT students interned at the **Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI)**, the **Center for Health Information & Analysis (CHIA)**, the **Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA)**, and more!

Program Details

To be eligible, students must have completed PUBH.1021 and two of the following courses: PHIT.2030, PHIT.2031, or PHIT.3030.

Internship opportunities will run from **May to August 2025**, with a chance to earn a stipend of up to **\$3,300** while gaining practical experience, refining skills, and making meaningful contributions in the PHIT field.

Please Note: If a student chooses to receive the PHIT stipend during the Summer 2025 internship, they will not be eligible to receive it again during their practicum or capstone courses.

For more information, please contact adorrahle_khan@uml.edu. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to advance your education and kickstart your career in PHIT!

Check out this day-in-the-life video that follows one of our PHIT student's internship experience at CHIA last summer: [Day In the Life of PHIT Intern.mov](#)



PHIT AR - New Opportunity for Undergraduate Students!

BY STEPHANIE CHAVARRIA



Hurray! The PHIT program just received funding for a grant to create a **new focus - PHIT-AR (Addiction Research)**. The objective is **to introduce students to the application of data sciences to addictions research**.

This program is **open to all majors** across the **University of Massachusetts-Lowell, Middlesex Community College and Northern Essex Community College**.

Criminal Justice students are highly recommended to take this opportunity as well. We are hoping to have **CJ classes added to the PHIT minor soon**. A new advanced research course will be created and dedicated specifically to addictions research with an emphasis on data science.

“

If you are interested in Addictions Research, it is highly suggested to take advantage of this opportunity.

”

As part of the PHIT-AR program, students will have the opportunity to have firsthand experience in addiction research with senior investigators. Our research partners include the **University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Department of Veterans Affairs and Boston University School of Medicine**.

Internship opportunities are available now! Students eligible will receive a **\$3,300 stipend** for their involvement which can assist in contributing towards their fees.

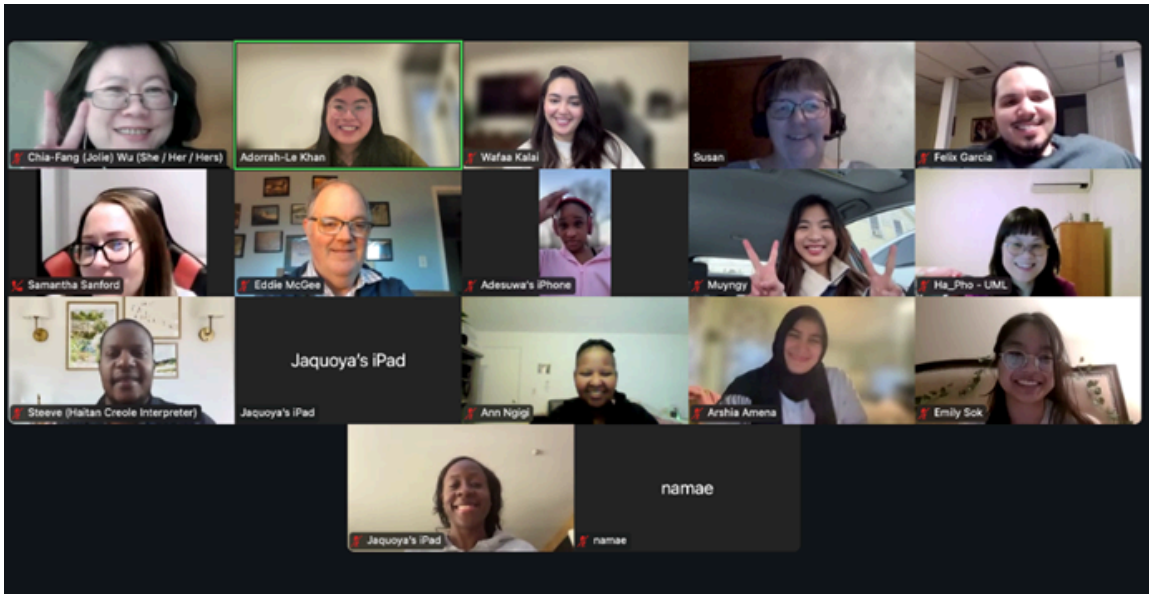
For students **majoring in Public Health the research experience can be part of their 6-credit capstone**.

If you have any questions or interests, please feel free to contact one of us by email

Dan Berlowitz, MD, MPH dan_berlowitz@uml.edu

Stephanie Chavarria stephanie_chavarria@uml.edu

Thank you and good luck this semester Spring 2025!



PHIT Internship Simulation Sessions with Middlesex Community College (MCC)

BY ADORRAH-LE KHAN

This winter, the PHIT Internship Simulation provided **14 Middlesex Community College students** with a structured, experiential learning opportunity in public health informatics and technology.

Over seven virtual sessions (January 8–17), participants engaged with **core PHIT concepts, including environmental health data analysis, health communication strategies, and data-driven decision-making.**

Through immersive hands-on activities, students applied informatics methodologies to real-world public health challenges, such as **process mapping, designing targeted health campaigns, and conducting data assessments** to inform policy interventions.

With guidance from professionals at the **CDC Foundation, Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI), and Leafpoint Boston,** students gained exposure to essential industry practices, including public health surveillance, risk assessment, and digital health communication.

Team-based projects emphasized analytical reasoning, problem-solving, and collaborative decision-making, reinforcing key competencies in public health informatics.

The program's 100% completion rate and positive participant feedback highlight its effectiveness in bridging academic learning with workforce readiness.

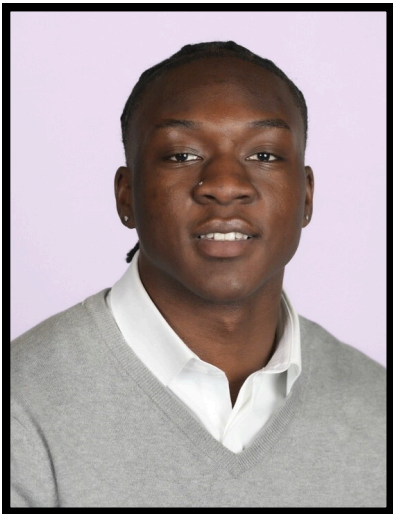
We are excited to bring the program back this Summer 2025, offering additional students the opportunity to refine their technical skills, engage with industry leaders, and advance their understanding of data-driven public health initiatives.

MCC Student Experience

"I very much enjoyed the sessions. I learned a great deal: exposure to practical uses, potential job areas, and even insights as to my own skill levels. The concept of guest speakers working in the field and discussing their jobs, employers, processes is an excellent one. I would recommend the sessions to anyone studying PHIT."

– Susan B., Billerica, MA

SPOTLIGHT - PHIT Undergraduate Student Adetayo (Tayo) Atitebi Jr



Adetayo (Tayo) Atitebi Jr., born and raised in Revere, MA, is a senior at the **University of Massachusetts Lowell, majoring in Public Health** with a concentration in Health Sciences. His academic journey is complemented by a **minor in Population Health Informatics and Technology (PHIT) program**, equipping him with a comprehensive understanding of public health, health information technology, and the U.S. healthcare system. During his PHIT internship, he had the opportunity to work with the **Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA), an independent state organization that offers unbiased evaluations of the Massachusetts health care system's accessibility, affordability, quality, and utilization.** He gained hands-on experience with Massachusetts' healthcare system data. This experience deepened his understanding of the **real-world applications of health informatics and how technology plays a crucial role in shaping public health initiatives.**

The PHIT program has been an invaluable part of his academic journey. In December 2024, he had the privilege of speaking at the **ASTP Annual Meeting for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) in Washington, D.C.** At the meeting, he shared his PHIT experience alongside a panel of students from across the nation. This visit was a transformative experience, allowing him to engage with industry leaders, gain insight into federal health IT initiatives, and observe how policies shape digital healthcare solutions. Interacting with professionals at ONC further solidified his passion for health informatics and provided him with a clearer vision of potential career paths in health data analytics and public health informatics.

The PHIT coursework has provided Tayo with **hands-on experience in electronic health records, data analysis, and public health software.** Additionally, he has greatly benefited from the networking opportunities the program offers, particularly through **APHA conferences and the ONC visit.** The PHIT program has also helped refine his interests in health technology and public health strategies, while the PHIT team has been instrumental in guiding him toward securing valuable internships that align with his career goals.

ASTP/ONC PHIT 4-UPDATE PANEL PRESENTATION WASHINGTON, D.C.



Advice for Fellow Students

"If I had to leave any advice for fellow students, I would tell them to take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way. Attend conferences, networking events, and site visits like ONC, because these experiences can shape your career path."

"I encourage students to develop data skills, as public health is becoming increasingly data driven. Gaining proficiency in data analysis, informatics, and health IT systems will set you apart in the field."

"The PHIT program is filled with passionate mentors and students, so I highly recommend collaborating, asking questions, and seeking guidance from faculty and peers."

SPOTLIGHT - PHIT Graduate Student Preezma Subedi



Preezma Subedi, originally from Nepal is currently in her final semester of the **Master of Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology program** at the UMass Lowell. She holds a bachelor's degree in public health from Purbanchal University in Nepal. As part of her academic journey, she worked in **Nepal's healthcare sector** and developed a strong foundation in addressing public health challenges through research and community engagement.

During the MPH program, as part of the PHIT internship program, she had fantastic opportunity to work with **Healthy Aging and Neighborhood Study (HANS), a research project at University of Massachusetts - Lowell funded by National Institute on Aging (NIA) which investigates falls, driving behaviors, and health disparities among older adults in Central Massachusetts** which acted as a significant learning experience for her. As an intern with the Health Statistics and Geography Lab, she worked and engaged in **data analysis and mapping tools to assess built in environmental factors on geriatric health.**

This experience, which integrated key PHIT competencies, helped in refining her technical skills, particularly in **data visualization tools such as GIS and Tableau.** Additionally, she gained hands-on experience in accessing and utilizing existing data sources, strengthening her ability to work with large datasets.

One of the most transformative moments of her journey was being sponsored by **PHIT team to attend the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in October 2024.** It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to attend a room full of fervent public health professionals who were sharing ideas and new insights into the future direction of healthcare. Her determination to make significant contributions and have an impact on public health was strengthened by the conference's lively, vibrant and diverse demographics, which encouraged her and helped her realize the potential for public health growth.

APHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS



Since epidemiology already requires working with data, she believed that enrolling in PHIT courses as electives would restrict her experiences and knowledge. However she comprehended the importance of informatics in **improving data management, visualization, and real-time decision making in public health within the framework of the PHIT curriculum.** Her ability to process, analyze and interpret health data more effectively and efficiently has also been tremendously boosted by the incorporation of **informatics technologies and applications such as SQL, Tableau, and GIS into epidemiological research.**

Advice for Fellow Students

“The PHIT program has been more than just a steppingstone, it has been a catalyst for growth, learning, and connection. To my fellow students, I encourage you to seize every opportunity to learn, engage, and connect. You never know what doors will open or how those experiences might change your path.”

“I am incredibly grateful to the PHIT program for empowering me with the tools and experiences that have shaped my journey in public health, and I look forward to applying these skills to create positive change in communities both in the U.S. and back in Nepal.”

New PHIT Staff Profile Anoop Kaur Phul



Anoop Kaur Phul has newly joined our UML PHIT Team as the **PHIT Academic Advisor**. She is a committed professional with over 13 years of experience who achieves total operational efficiency to support public health goals for target groups and hospital environments by integrating strong interpersonal, communication, problem-solving, and analytical skills with leadership talents. She also holds a **Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with a PHIT concentration from UMASS Lowell**. Her multidisciplinary approach focuses on combining research, policy-making, and health IT systems to promote safety measures, which are crucial in the field of public healthcare.

As the PHIT Workforce Development Program's Academic Advisor, she will continue to support students, assist in connecting with current undergraduate and graduate students, and network to recruit new students. She will also offer academic guidance and assistance to students regarding appropriate courses and strategies based on their academic performance and PHIT-specific capabilities, as well as how doing this course can assist them in defining their future career goals with regard to data analysis, research, and various tools and strategies used for data management in the healthcare/public health field.

Thank you for reading!

<p>PHIT ACADEMIC ADVISOR ANOOP KAUR PHUL</p>	<p>MONDAY: 1 PM-3 PM TUESDAY: 1 PM-3 PM FRIDAY: 3 PM-5 PM</p>
<p>Email to Schedule: AnoopKaur_Phul@uml.edu</p>	<p>WANT TO LEARN MORE? www.uml.edu/phiphit phiphit@uml.edu</p>



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UMass Lowell Department of Public Health

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