

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ACSM Epi Research Apprenticeship Program

Learn physical activity epidemiology by doing it.

A two-year mentored research program for emerging investigators to build a rigorous project.

APPLICATIONS DUE Friday, January 15, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. PT

Two to three apprentices will be selected.

PURPOSE: Guide emerging researchers through real-world physical activity epidemiology experience by turning promising epidemiologic questions utilizing cohort or surveillance systems data into feasible, meaningful projects.

VISION: A collaborative research community advancing rigorous epidemiology, biostatistics and public health scholarship.

MISSION: Build research skills in physical activity epidemiology, biostatistics, and public health through expert mentorship, peer-support, and hands-on work with real data.



ACSM Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Public Health SIG · 2026 Annual Meeting

APPLY NOW

THE EXPERIENCE

A research apprenticeship built for learning

The program uses a focused project to build skills through hands-on experience - not simply as a route to a paper. Apprentices learn with a mentorship team, targeted experts and a small scholarly cohort. This program is not a replacement for institutional mentoring but aims to complement it.

2-3

apprentices selected per cohort

Monthly

mentor-team meetings

Quarterly

webinars + workshops

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

Build the research practice

- Turn a broad idea into a focused research question with specific aims.
- Evaluate datasets, codebooks, measures and access requirements.
- Develop a transparent analysis plan and conduct appropriate analyses.
- Interpret findings and collaborate effectively in a research team.
- Prepare an ACSM abstract and conference presentation.
- Though not required, projects of sufficient scope that can be developed into a full manuscript are highly encouraged.

HOW IT WORKS

Learn with a mentorship team

- Complete pre-assigned work and mentor matching before the 2027 annual meeting.
- Join an in-person kickoff workshop at the pre-conference on Tuesday, June 1, 2027, in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Meet approximately monthly with a mentorship team.
- Participate in quarterly webinars open to all SIG members, followed by apprentice-only workshops.
- Complete staged milestones and present at a future ACSM Annual Meeting.
- At this time, the program does not provide travel funding.

Dataset access: Proposed projects should involve analysis of publicly available or easily accessed data whenever possible. Restricted data may be used as long as access is feasible within the proposed plan and timeline.

Scholarly products: A short presentation at a future Epi SIG meeting is expected as a product of the program. An abstract submission to the ACSM Annual Meeting is strongly encouraged. Though not required, projects of sufficient scope that can be developed into a full manuscript are highly encouraged. Authorship for all products will be discussed and determined with the mentorship team.

APPLY

Bring a promising question - not a finished protocol

Graduate students and early career trainees with all levels of experience that are ACSM members in 2026 are encouraged to apply. To maximize the value of this mentoring opportunity, we strongly recommend that applicants have completed at least 2 years of graduate training.

APPLICATION PACKAGE

Four components

- **Structured project concept** - maximum two pages, excluding references. More formatting guidelines are provided in the project concept template.
- **Statement of interest** - maximum one page, Outline your interest in the program, applicable experience, and benefit to your professional goals.
- **Curriculum vitae**
- **Advisor or supervisor letter of support**

SELECTION

Selections are made by **February 12, 2027**. Reviewers consider topic relevance, feasibility, dataset investigation, commitment, training benefit, mentor fit and advisor support.

PLANNING

Applicants should plan for monthly mentorship meetings, quarterly webinars/workshops, independent project work and required in-person annual-meeting activities. The program does not provide travel funding.

ACSM/SIG Membership required Applicants must be members of the ACSM Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Public Health SIG before submitting. If you are not a current SIG member, join now through the [ACSM SIG Member Hub](#).

TIMELINE

MILESTONE	DATE
Applications open	Friday, September 11, 2026
Application deadline	Friday, January 15, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. PT
Notifications	Friday, February 12, 2027
Mentor-matching	Friday, March 12, 2027
Pre-assigned work completed	Friday, May 21, 2027
Kickoff in-person workshop	2027 ACSM Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana

READY TO APPLY?

Submit all four PDF components through the application form linked below.

[OPEN THE APPLICATION FORM](#)

Questions or accessibility requests: epibiosph@gmail.com