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Background

New health sciences librarians often lack the specialized knowledge and skills required for entry-level positions. Hiring managers may lack the funding, time, and personnel for thorough onboarding, discouraging them from hiring new health sciences librarians.

In response to these obstacles, the Health Sciences Library Apprenticeship Program (HSLAP) was developed to be a flexible extracurricular program comparable to a health sciences library elective course for library school students pursuing a Master in Library Sciences (MLS), or equivalent, degree. It was fully funded, developed, and staffed by NAHSL, and launched as a 4-month hybrid opportunity for library students entering their final year of study.



Program Components

- Four modules of online didactic instruction
- A week-long on-site practical immersion experience at a local library with an assigned mentor
- MLA and NAHSL student memberships
- NNLM and MLA training courses, journal club and other readings, activities
- Presentations from local library directors with live discussion
- Development of a presentable artifact to be used in job interviews
- Attendance at the NAHSL annual meeting

Call for 2027 Mentors and Speakers

- **Speakers** for virtual sessions
 - Topics include:
 - Overview of health sciences libraries
 - Information literacy and instruction
 - Scholarly communication
 - SUGGEST ONE!
- **3 mentors** for on-site experiences
 - Work with the steering committee for preparation and planning
 - Guide a student in developing a final project
 - Receive a stipend for your library for participation

“[Our new hire] joined the library team...after her HSLAP experience...[she] understood the patrons, resources and unique demands of a hospital library and quickly built reference, search and technical skills on that strong foundation.”

Help Us Help Future Librarians

- What do you wish every new hire already knew before starting a health sciences library job?
- What do wish you had known before starting your current job?