# Paid Internship Program Information Session
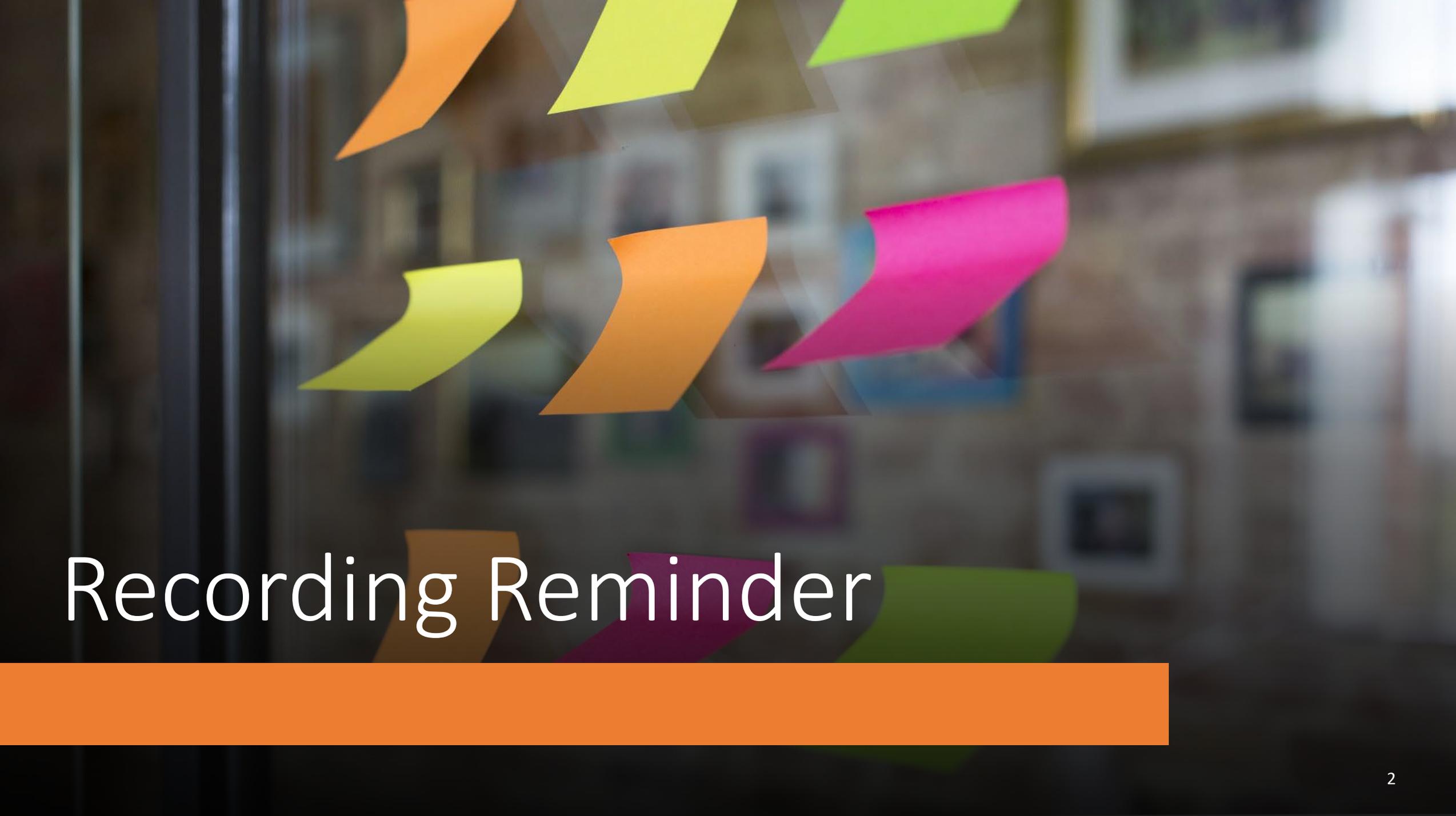
GETPHIT

Gaining Equity in Training for Public Health Informatics and Technology

# Recording Reminder

# Meeting Goals

- Share the GET PHIT paid internship opportunities for students
- Provide details about the application process

# PHIT Grant Goal

Public Health Informatics and Technology (PHIT) Workforce Development Program

4-Year Funding Opportunity

Goal: To prioritize the training of at least 4000 students in the areas of public health informatics and technology to improve the nation's public health workforce.

# PHIT Workforce Program Awardees

- Bowie State University, Bowie, MD

- California State University, Long Beach Research Foundation, Long Beach, CA

- Dominican College of Blauvelt, Inc., Orangeburg, NY

- Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

- Norfolk State University, Norfolk, VA

- Regents of The University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

- **The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, TX**

- University of Massachusetts at Lowell, Lowell, MA

- University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

- University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC

# GET PHIT Consortium Members

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Huston-Tillotson University | Prairie View A&M University | Texas A&M International University | Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center |
| The University of Texas Permian Basin | University of Texas at Arlington | The University of Texas at El Paso | The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health |
| The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Biomedical Informatics | **The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley** UTRGV | Texas Southern University | University of Texas at Tyler |

# GET PHIT UTRGV Team

- PI: Tracia Forman, PhD, Health and Biomedical Sciences

- Co-PI: Suad Ghaddar, PhD, Health and Biomedical Sciences

- Co-PI: Kristina Vatcheva, PhD, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

- Graduate Research Assistant: Kaelan Wilson

# Elements of the GET PHIT Grant

**Curriculum Development**

**Bootcamps**

**Paid Internships**

# Internship Information

- 160-hour part-time **paid** internship in public health informatics within health departments, non-profits, or health systems
  - Stipends range: $2,440 - $3,000 based on education and skill
  - All stipends are paid for by the GET PHIT Consortium
- May be remote/in-person/hybrid depending on site
- One remaining opportunity
  - Summer 2026:   Early Jun – Mid Aug

# Internship Eligibility

- Any enrolled UTRGV student who
  - Has a strong interest in public health informatics and data science
  - Has participated in a GET PHIT bootcamp, OR other eligible program of study/courses
- GPA of 3.0 or above preferred
- Students from underrepresented minorities are strongly encouraged to apply

# Possible Internship Sites

## Health Departments

City of Brownsville

City of El Paso

City of Houston

City of Laredo

City of Lubbock

Cameron County

Dallas County

Harris County

Tarrant County

Texas Department of State Health Services

## Non-Profits & Health Systems

RTI, International

Harris Health System

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Houston Food Bank

Children at Risk, Center for Social Measurement and Evaluation

PCCI (Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation)

# Student Skills/Possible Projects

Data cleaning

Database development

Data analysis

Data visualization

Data programming

# GET PHIT
Gaining Equity in Training for Public Health Informatics and Technology

## PAID INTERNSHIPS

### What Is It?
- A 160-hour part-time **paid internship** in public health informatics within health departments, non- profits, or health systems.
- Students will receive a stipend ranging from $2,440 - $3,000 based on education and skill.

### Who Is Eligible?
Any enrolled UTRGV student who

- Has a strong interest in public health informatics & data science
- Has participated in a GET PHIT Bootcamp **OR** is part of an approved course or program in health professions, engineering, computer science, mathematical and statistical sciences, information systems, etc.

Students from underrepresented minorities are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to apply.

**To apply**, scan the QR code or visit the GET PHIT Internship webpage

### When?

| Semester | Internship Dates* | Application Deadline |
|----------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Summer 2026 | Early Jun – Mid Aug | April 1 |

*Specific start dates may vary and will depend on internship sites and processing.

### How to Apply?
**To apply** visit the GET PHIT Internship webpage.

### More Information and Guidance on Application

| Attend UTRGV Info Session | View Recording |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| **When**: Thursday, **February 26, 12 pm** <br> **Where**: Virtual via Zoom <br> https://utrgv.zoom.us/j/82550770574 | Visit the UTRGV GET PHIT website for previous info session recordings anytime and for this recording after 2/26 |

### Student Skills/Possible Projects

*Internships may be remote/in-person/hybrid depending on site.*

- Data cleaning
- Database development
- Data collection
- Data analysis
- Data visualization
- Data programming

### Questions?
**Send us an email**: UTRGV.GETPHIT@utrgv.edu OR GETPHITInternships@uth.tmc.edu
**Visit** the GET PHIT website (https://www.uth.edu/get-phit/) or the UTRGV GET PHIT website

The Gaining Equity in Training for Public Health Informatics and Technology (GET PHIT) Consortium plans to train 1,400 students and 500 public health, clinic, and academic professionals, while placing 400 students in internships. Led by The University Texas of Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Public Health (SPH) and School of Biomedical Informatics (SBMI), the GET PHIT Consortium is collaborating with Huston-Tillotson University; Prairie View A&M University; Texas A&M International University; Texas Tech University Health Science Center; The University of Texas at Arlington; The University of Texas at El Paso; The University of Texas Permian Basin; and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The Consortium is funded by a grant from the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy (ASTP), previously the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

# Summer 2026 Paid Internship

- Early June – Mid August

- **Application Deadline = April 1**

# Internship Application



GET PHIT

Gaining Equity in Training for Public Health Informatics and Technology

## How to Apply?

- Visit the GET PHIT [website](https://www.uth.edu/get-phit/) (https://www.uth.edu/get-phit/)
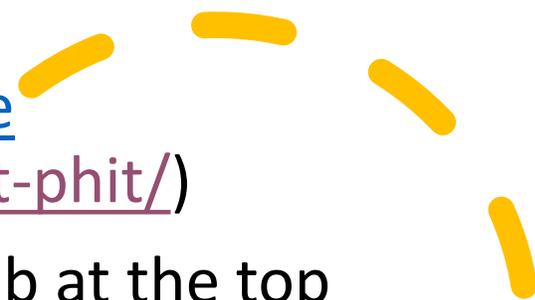
- Click on the Internships tab at the top

- Click on the Apply Now button

- Fill the required information

- Make sure to answer every question. Skipping questions does not allow you to move forward with the application

# Additional Application Requirements

- GET PHIT **Bootcamp completion certificate**
  - Attending a Summer Bootcamp counts towards your eligibility.
  - Consider including that in your personal statement.
- **Transcript** (unofficial is acceptable)
- **Recommenders' information**
- **Resume**
  - Include the address/city you are currently physically located at so the GET PHIT team can consider the appropriate in-person sites for you
- **Personal statement** addressing your interest in public health informatics, data science, and how the GET PHIT internship will support your growth and development (500 words or less)
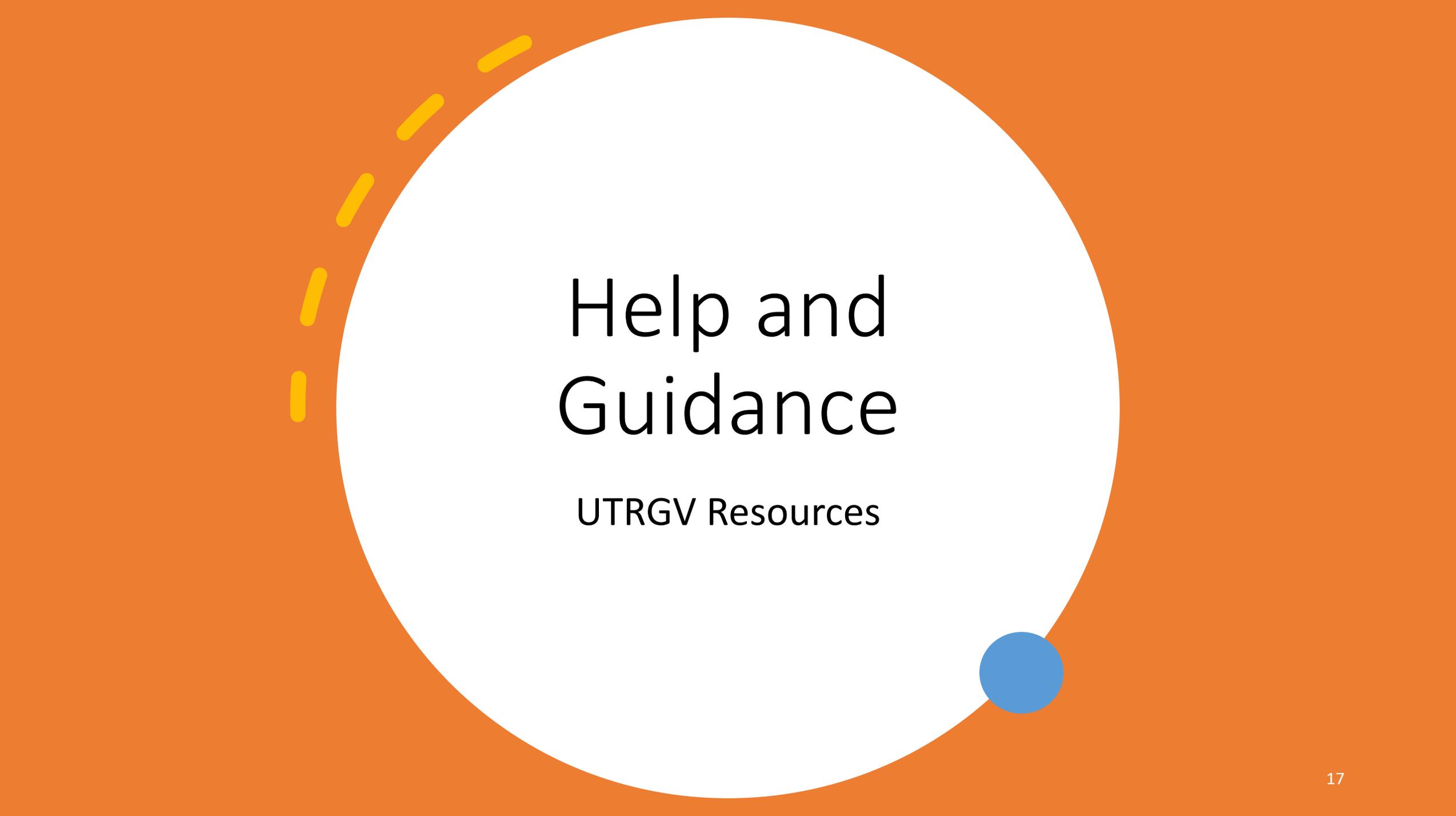
# Help and Guidance

UTRGV Resources

# Help and Guidance – Transcripts

- UTRGV students can request an **official transcript** using the [online ordering service](#). Students must be free of financial debt with the institution in order to have an official transcript released.

- **Unofficial transcripts** are available to current UTRGV students ONLY via [ASSIST](#).
    1. Log in to [my.utrgv.edu](http://my.utrgv.edu)
    2. Open ASSIST from the Applications section
    3. Select the Student Profile tab
    4. Select Academic Record
    5. Select the transcript level, and transcript type

No screenshots of transcript! Download a PDF and upload it in the application.

- Note that the GET PHIT internship application accepts official and unofficial transcripts.

- Internship information can also be found on the [UTRGV GET PHIT website](#), including the recording of this and past information sessions.

# Help and Guidance - Resume

The UTRGV Career Center and their Career Advising/Education Team provide outstanding support in career development including CV/resume building, professional correspondence, networking, interviewing, and more.

To get help preparing your resume, you can
- Schedule an appointment with Center advisors (via Handshake), or
- Visit during the Center's Drop-In Hours

# Help and Guidance - Recommender

- All you need to do is to provide the name, role, and contact information for two recommenders who can attest to your skills, leadership, and character.
  - Make sure to contact the recommenders ahead of time seeking their willingness to serve as your recommender and permission to share their email.
- Recommenders can be professors, advisors, previous or current supervisors, and/or mentor.
- The GET PHIT Program will send the recommender a survey to complete.

# Help and Guidance – Personal Statement

- In your personal statement, address your interest in public health informatics, data science, and/or other relevant topics, and how the GET PHIT internship program will support your growth and development.
  - 500 words or less
- We highly recommend that you utilize the services of UTRGV's Writing Center to review your personal statement.
- The center provides
  - In-person consultations
  - Zoom writing consultations
  - Review of any document you send within 24-48 hours

# Note on AI Use

- As we have been reviewing applications, we noticed obvious AI use by some applicants
  - Impressive use of all the field's sophisticated terminology
  - Several similar essays, almost word for word
  - Essays without a soul
- Using AI-generated essays in response to the prompt is SUPER obvious! It is also UNETHICAL, when undisclosed
- Nothing beats an authentic expression that communicates your unique voice

# Payment

- Accepted students who are eligible for the "paid" internship will receive an email to fill out a form for additional information that will be submitted to UTHealth Human Resources (HR)

- UTHealth Human Resources (HR) will send a link for background check

- Background check can take up to two weeks, so please respond promptly

- Students who do not complete the required information will NOT receive payment

- Payment is broken up into smaller payments over the course of the internship, usually based on UTHealth Houston pay cycles

# Note for International Students

- Due to processing requirements, the GET PHIT team cannot process applications (paid or unpaid) for international students.

# Start Today!

- It will allow you enough time  seek/receive feedback on your reflection essays elaborating on your interest in participation.

- It will allow you time to identify questions and reach out.

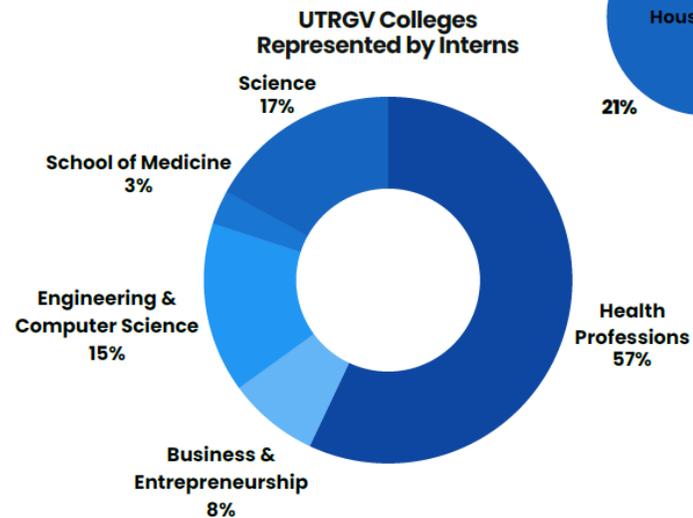# Stronger Application!

# Intern Characteristics
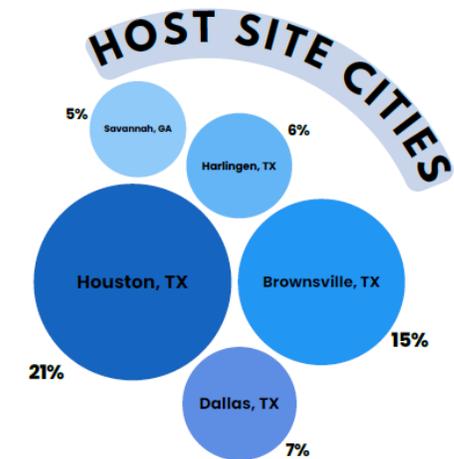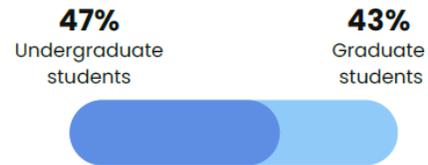


GETPHIT PAID INTERNSHIPS

132 UTRGV student interns SINCE FALL 2022

Female Participation 62%
Hispanic Participation 69%
Remote Participation 86%

47% Undergraduate students
43% Graduate students

HOST SITE CITIES
Savannah, GA 5%
Harlingen, TX 6%
Houston, TX 21%
Brownsville, TX 15%
Dallas, TX 7%

UTRGV Colleges Represented by Interns
Science 17%
School of Medicine 3%
Engineering & Computer Science 15%
Business & Entrepreneurship 8%
Health Professions 57%

GETPHIT

# Intern Quotes

Having that a mentor that is always there available, willing to help made it a big difference. And I was comfortable talking to them and with any concerns or questions.
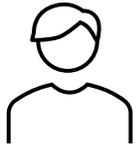
Because I was graduating soon, I didn't know if I'd be able to do this. The virtual option worked perfectly with my schedule

[I] was not planning to pursue a master's in public health before this, but these experiences changed [my] mind. It helped me solidify what I wanted to pursue

I was being compensated. That was really nice, because it gave me the time to not have another job and to just focus on the actual internship

# Internship Achievements

- To date, **132 UTRGV students** have completed paid internships as part of the GET PHIT initiative.

- Several have presented at the 2023 (Houston), 2024 (Arlington), and 2025 (Laredo) GET PHIT Summits.

# Questions?
# Connect with our UTRGV GET PHIT Team

**UTRGV GET PHIT Team**

- Email: UTRGV.GETPHIT@utrgv.edu

- UTRGV GET PHIT internships webpage: We will post a copy of these slides and a recording

**UTHealth Houston GET PHIT Internships Team**

- Email:
  - getphitinternships@uth.tmc.edu

- Internships webpage

Tracia Forman, PhD

Suad Ghaddar, PhD

# Past Interns

If you would like to hear from previous interns, visit the UTRGV GET PHIT website and check past recordings.