**Internship/Practicum Title:** Digital Health Communications Internship

**Internship Type** (check one)
- Standard DSHS Internship
- Blue Ribbon Internship
- Standard or Blue Ribbon

**Preceptor Name and Title:**
Jennifer Van Gilder, Communications Director

**Brief Description**
Include purpose and goals

Looking for intern with strong digital communications skills, e.g. social media, design, writing, design, and/or video, to join our small but mighty communications team. This position will assist with management of agency Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube pages, and related health messaging strategies. Position will also have opportunity to work on myriad health promotion and behavior change campaigns, e.g. adolescent vaping, obesity, chronic disease, etc.

**Semester:** Ongoing  
**Year:** 2020  
**Length:** Full Year (3 semesters)  
**Total Weekly Hours:** 15-30 hours negotiable  
**Paid:**  
- Yes  
- No  
**Travel Required?**  
- Yes  
- No

**DSHS Division:** Center for External Relations  
**Program:** Communications  
**Region:** Central Office  
**Internship Location:** Austin, Texas

**Population Focus:** Infants; Adolescents; Adults and Mothers; Children with Special Healthcare and other Special Populations; DSHS employees

**Functional Focus:** Program Planning, Development, Implementation and Administration; Research

**Dimensions of Public Health:** Prevention-Health Promotion; Chronic Disease; Oral Health; Behavioral Health

**DSHS Host Program Summary**

Enter a brief narrative description of the mission, purpose and functions of the Host Program area within which the Internship is operated.

The DSHS Communications department resides within the Center for External Relations, and is comprised of web, marketing, social media, design and video services. Our mission is to effectively brand DSHS as the public health leader in Texas. Working with agency program partners, our messaging consistently communicates how DSHS improves the health, safety and well-being of Texans.
## Internship Details

### Learning Objectives (minimum of 3)
What do you expect the student to learn upon completion of a successful internship?

- Learn digital technology’s role in addressing a range of pressing public health issues.
- Learn how to develop high-quality, strategic communications content including but not limited to social media, design, video, and web.
- Learn how behavior change theory, utilizing market research and best practices, can positively influence health outcomes.

### Intern Activities
What will the intern do during their internship? Use verbs to describe activities.

- Develop digital health promotion messaging for agency’s social media channels
- Support social media, design, editorial and web services teams in content creation, strategy, production.
- Contribute ideas, strategies, digital communication skills to agency-wide creative campaigns, social media channels.
- Participate in communications-related strategy and production meetings with program partners, stakeholders, and public awareness campaign vendors.

### Intern Deliverables (at least one)
What will the intern produce or complete at the end of the internship?

- PowerPoint presentation of portfolio generated during internship.

### Relevant Statutes or Policies
What statutes, laws, regulations, or policies are at the basis of the internship?

- N/A

## Applicant Qualifications

### Required Skill (check all that apply)

- Microsoft Office:
  - Word
  - PowerPoint

- Other software applications:
  - Adobe Creative Suite, Hootsuite, Canva

### Proficiency (check one for each app.)

- Basic
- Intermediate
- Advanced

### Academic level and/or degree or field/discipline
Graduate or undergraduate in communications-related field/area of study

### Other required qualifications (list below)

- Intrinsically motivated for excellence
- Mission-driven, passionate about health
- Trustworthy
- Hardworking
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<tr>
<th>Preferred Skill (check all that apply)</th>
<th>Proficiency (check one for each app.)</th>
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**Academic level, degree and/or field**
Communications-related field/area of study

**Other preferred qualifications (list below)**
- Design/video/content portfolio demonstrating creativity, strategic content development and social media platform experience

**Application Instructions**
Qualified and interested applicants must submit the following items to the contact below:

- ☒ Application
- ☐ Letter of Interest [BR applicants only]
- ☒ Two letters of recommendation
  Instructions: 1 letter from current or former supervisor if applicable and/or 1 or both letters from faculty members (in lieu of reference checks).
- ☒ Resume
- ☒ Writing Sample
- ☒ Other documents: Creative/writing portfolio if available

**Contact Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact Name and Information</th>
<th>Name: Jennifer Van Gilder Credentials: MA Title: Communications Director</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Jennifer.vangilder@dshs.texas.gov">Jennifer.vangilder@dshs.texas.gov</a> Phone: (512) 776-6085</td>
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