

Natives eligible for masters in health

The Master of Public Health Program for Native Americans is a graduate school program for Indian students who are interested in pursuing a career in public health. The program was started in 1971 and, to date, some 83 students representing 38 tribal groups and 23 states have been enrolled in the program. Of these students, 52 have graduated and almost all are employed in some aspect of Indian health. Three of the graduates have entered medical school. Twenty-five students are still enrolled and working towards their degrees.

The program offers training in such areas of specialization as hospital administration, health administration and planning, laboratory sciences and health education. In addition, a new masters degree program has been developed to train Native American graduate students in the area of alcohol and substance abuse.

The MPH program is offered at the University of California, Berkeley, although students are sponsored at other Schools of Public Health around the country. Nineteen of the 83 students have received their training in the Schools of Public Health at the Universities of Minnesota, Texas, North Carolina, Michigan, Washington, U. C. Los Angeles,

Loma Linda and Tulane.

The training program lasts from 12 to 24 months, depending upon the specialization chosen by the students. From three to six months of the program are spent in a field placement, the remainder in the school environment.

Students are provided with tuition, travel, and a stipend to cover living expenses. A Bachelor's degree and a sincere interest in working with Native Americans are major requirements, although some experience or knowledge of the health field is preferred.

The program is presently recruiting students for the 1977/78 school year for the Master of Public Health or Doctoral program, and would welcome any questions or concerns regarding the program or application procedure. Applications should be received by February 1, 1977 to be considered for the fall quarter.

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