The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Examinations Team continually strives to improve and strengthen the Uniform CPA Examination® (Exam) testing program through research on the use of enhanced technology and advanced measurement models.

We have a long tradition of working with advanced graduate students through a summer internship program, providing students the opportunity to work on a state-of-the-art operational exam under the supervision of psychometricians at the AICPA. The program has been very successful and productive – internships typically lead to a published internal technical report and a presentation at a national psychometric conference.

Program Description

Our internship research opportunities are structured, project-based experiences, and interns should be prepared to work independently with direction from a supervising psychometrician. Psychometricians from the Examinations team will guide interns through the development, execution and write-up of a focused psychometric (or related) research study. Interns will work on topics based on their interests and skills from the team’s research agenda.

Research Agenda

Current research agenda topics may include, but not be limited to:

- Innovative methods to assess test security for traditional and innovative item formats, including utilization of machine learning or Artificial Intelligence (AI) approaches to the detection of test cheating/test taker disengagement
- Application of machine learning algorithms to assess item qualities, characteristics and/or outcomes
- Estimating decision accuracy/reliability for complex assessments
- Development of Reporting/Psychometric Dashboards

In addition to the above topics, interns working on other/complementary psychometric research topics requiring data should feel free to apply, outlining the specific proposal in the application.

Eligibility

Applicants should be graduate students in the latter phase of their program in Psychometrics, Educational Measurement, I/O Psychology, Statistics, Computer Science or a related field. Preference will be given to applicants who have completed their coursework and have strong evidence of research experience.

Duration

Successful candidates will be hired for eight weeks during the summer of 2022. Note that internships this summer will be fully remote. The first week will include a series of orientation meetings with staff in various functions with the Exams team. During this week the research project will be developed with staff mentors to develop the specifics of their assigned studies. Interns then spend the remaining seven weeks at their home university, at which time they will conduct their studies and deliver an agreed-upon set of deliverables that document their results and findings. Although interns will be assigned one or two mentors, interns must be able to work independently.
Compensation

Interns will be paid a $5,000 stipend.

Additional Information

For some background on internships and the application process, follow this link:

https://www.nera-education.org/docs/TNR_Fall_2017_FINAL.pdf

How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit the following:

1. Cover letter with contact information (address, email, phone) and description of educational background
2. Statement of research interests, skills and how they relate to the projects listed above (1 – 2 pages, double-spaced) – applicants should be clear so far as which topics are of greatest interest, and are encouraged to propose a broad research project within one of the topics
3. Current curriculum vitae
4. Two letters of recommendation

Applications and questions regarding the internship program should be sent electronically to Matthew T. Schultz, Ph.D., at matthew.schultz@aicpa-cima.com.

Deadline

Applications must be received by February 18, 2022.