

Black Health Equity Lab



Overview:

The Black Health Equity Lab (The BHEL) is a community-based social science research lab led by Dr. Notisha Massaquoi at the Department of Health and Society, University of Toronto, Scarborough. The BHEL brings together students, researchers, and community-based organizations committed to working with and for Black communities to conduct rigorous health research and develop advocacy tools, strategies, and programs to improve health outcomes, well-being, and success in Canadian systems.

The placement:

This placement offers a unique opportunity to work at the intersection of public health, racial justice, and community-led research. Students will gain real-world experience in knowledge mobilization, policy engagement, and equity-based advocacy.

<https://www.bhel.ca/>

The position:

As a placement student at BHEL, you'll support research, advocacy, and community initiatives aimed at addressing systemic health inequities affecting Black communities in Canada. Your responsibilities will include:

- Assisting in the planning and promotion of Black health equity campaigns
- Creating content for BHEL's social media, newsletters, and website that translates research into accessible messaging
- Supporting the coordination of events, such as community roundtables, policy forums, and workshops
- Conducting research on health policy, racial justice, and systemic barriers in health care
- Contributing to community outreach and engagement efforts to strengthen partnerships and elevate lived experience
- Supporting internal team coordination, attending meetings, and contributing to administrative tasks as needed

The opportunity:

Participating in a placement with BHEL offers a unique opportunity for students to bridge academic learning with real-world community engagement. Through hands-on involvement in health justice, advocacy, and grassroots organizing, students will gain both personal and professional growth rooted in social justice practice.

You will:

- Apply theories of anti-oppression, health equity, and systems change in a Black-led research environment
- Gain insight into how racism impacts health outcomes and access across social determinants of health

- Develop outreach and engagement skills by connecting with community leaders, stakeholders, and organizations
- Participate in event coordination and community dialogue facilitation
- Strengthen research and policy analysis skills, contributing to reports, policy briefs, and public education materials
- Enhance your communication skills through writing for public and academic audiences and managing digital outreach
- Learn the operational dynamics of a nonprofit, research-driven organization rooted in equity and justice

The ideal candidate:

We're looking for a student who is:

- Committed to Black health equity and understands the impacts of systemic racism on health outcomes
- A strong communicator—able to write clearly for public, policy, and academic audiences
- Creative and collaborative, with the ability to contribute to digital campaigns and event planning
- Organized and self-motivated, comfortable managing multiple tasks and deadlines
- Enrolled in a relevant discipline such as Public Health, Health Studies, Social Work, Sociology, Public Policy, African Studies, or similar
- Passionate about applying an academic lens to community-driven, equity-focused initiatives

How to apply:

For information about the application process, go to: <https://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/cel-courses/cel-how-to-apply/>

Application deadline: Wednesday, July 16, 2025

For more information about the course, please visit: <https://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/cel-courses/>

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