

Internship descriptions for 2008 winter quarter TESC class: Gender and Sexuality: History, Culture, and Politics

There are several possibilities to work with **Safe Schools Coalition** – <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org>

(1) Design and do the community organizing to gather data for a reprise of the 1999 report, *They Don't Even Know Me*. See: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/theydontevenknowme.pdf>. Within a three month period of time, it wouldn't be possible to actually **conduct** this sort of qualitative study, but it would be possible to **design** it and set it in motion. Collecting the data might take five years, but the students' project would be to draft the survey tool, do focus groups and individual interviews to pre-test it, negotiate with member agencies a protocol for data collection and counseling with (some) respondents, and design a publicity campaign to kick off the project. **We believe that this would take three full-time interns - or more if they were part-time.**

(2) Research work for an updated version of *83,000 Youth: Selected Findings of Eight Population-Based Studies*:

Our original report was published in 1999. It was the first-ever compilation of quantitative research that explores the particular needs of gay, lesbian, and bisexual high school students and sheds light on the issue of anti-gay harassment in schools. The studies included six statewide surveys, two administered in urban school districts and one conducted in the schools of 55 American Indian tribes.) See the report in pdf format on our website at: <http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/83000youth.pdf>

This would involve writing a report summarizing the bullying data from the 2004 and 2006 Washington State Healthy Youth Surveys. <http://www.hys.wa.gov/> The 2008 data will not be available until sometime in March 2008, which will not be during the time of these internships. So the report could be written, essentially, with gaps into which the 2008 data and trend analysis could be inserted when the findings are released. **We believe that one student could accomplish this in a three-month full-time internship; two could accomplish it in a half-time internship.**

(3) Draft a 2009 version of our *Eighty-Three Thousand Youth* report. **We believe that this would take two full-time or three or four part-time interns.** (<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org/83000youth.pdf>) This would be compilation and meta-analysis, a decade later, of findings from population-based quantitative studies (i.e., not those using convenience samples; only studies that are random samples or censuses) regarding:

- (a) bullying in schools due to perceived sexual orientation
- (b) the demographics of sexual orientation among youth
- (c) associations between health/safety variables and sexual bullying and between health/safety variables and sexual orientation (the latter is defined in some studies based on self-identification, in others by gender(s) of sexual partners and in others by gender(s) of attractions)

The Coalition would also be open to students' suggestions about some other research-related internship(s). That internship proposal could also include some time to work on updating and adding to the resources and content on our website.

Another possibility is to work with **Youth Guardian Services (YGS)** – <http://www.youth-guard.org/>

I spoke to our executive director, Rachel Popkin, and she said we would be able to work with an intern (who I would supervise) to do some tasks such as putting together a new brochure, creating content for the YGS website, and assisting with administrative tasks in the operation of the organization. We would also be open to the intern doing some peer support on the 17-21-year-old list, provided the intern is under 22 years of age. This internship could be combined with working on updating resources for Safe Schools Coalition's website. **We believe that this would be a one person 20-30 hour a week internship.**

Please note: there is no money available to pay interns at either organization.