Abigail Perelman (History, Community Health, 2016)
Research Intern
Part-time, 24 hours per week
Paid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I support the ongoing project to reduce the cost of health care by shifting site of care.

How did you find your internship?
Family/friend referral.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I have had the opportunity to work with people who come from a variety of different professional backgrounds (engineers, clinicians, business development). The diverse group of colleagues has given me the chance to consider many different possible career paths within the realm of health care.

What do you find challenging?
The internship is largely unstructured. While this means that I can get involved in a variety of projects, it also means that my role within each project can be unclear.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Taking initiative is critical. If you do not have enough work or responsibilities, ask your direct supervisors and others in the office if they could use your help with what they are working on. It is a great chance to learn about all of the ongoing projects.

About the Organization
West Health Institute
La Jolla, CA

The Gary and Mary West Health Institute is an independent, nonprofit medical research organization that works with healthcare providers and research institutions to create new, more effective ways of delivering care. We’re wholly funded by philanthropists Gary and Mary West as part of West Health, four organizations with a common mission—pioneering new and smarter technologies, policies and practices, to make high-quality healthcare more accessible at a lower cost to all Americans.