

Graduate Assistant – Carolina Demography

Position Overview

Carolina Demography, the applied demography research unit at the Carolina Population Center at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is seeking a qualified graduate assistant for an hourly position. The graduate assistant will support a research project partnering with the Office of Language and Communication Access (OLCA) under the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. The primary objective is to review the existing literature related to counting the population that is deaf and hard-of-hearing with a focus on American Sign Language (ASL) speakers and assess the feasibility of estimating this population in North Carolina with existing data sources.

- **Department:** Carolina Demography, Carolina Population Center
- **Location:** 123 W Franklin St, Suite 210, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 (hybrid/remote options)
- **Project Duration:** September 7th, 2026 – December 15th, 2026
- **Time Commitment:** 10-20 hours per week (logged in the TIM system)
- **Compensation:** \$22/hour
- **Position Type:** Graduate Assistant

Key Responsibilities

1. Landscape Assessment & Literature Review

- Conduct a comprehensive review of scholarly and applied demographic literature regarding methods and data used to count the deaf and hard-of-hearing populations.

2. Data Source Evaluation & Methodological Review

- Identify and critique potential regional, state, and national data sources to improve population counts of the deaf and hard-of-hearing with a focus on ASL speakers.
- Outline alternative mathematical or statistical models suitable for low-incidence subpopulation forecasting.
- Map out logistical challenges, data access constraints, and privacy regulations.

3. Advisory Committee Support & Stakeholder Engagement

- Assist in establishing and coordinating an Advisory Committee of regional content matter experts.
- Schedule committee meetings, record detailed minutes, and compile expert feedback.

4. Deliverable Drafting

- Co-author of the final Landscape Analysis and Feasibility Study report.
- Produce maps and data visualizations associated with final report.

Qualifications

Required Experience

- **Current Enrollment:** Must be an active graduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill.
- **Field of Study:** Master's or Ph.D. track in Sociology, Public Health, Statistics, Public Policy, or related field.

Required Skills

- **Independence:** Proven ability to work under limited supervision while meeting strict project milestones.
- **Data Literacy:** Familiarity evaluating appropriate use and limitations of publicly available and protected datasets.
- **Communication:** Exceptional academic writing skills to translate technical demographic constraints for state policymakers.

For more information, please contact Nathan Dollar, Director of Carolina Demography at ntdollar@unc.edu.