Student Enrichment Opportunities Office

NEWSLETTER

Meetings, Scholarships and Educational Opportunities

It’s our annual three-day, all-expense-paid visit to the Scripps Research campus in Florida, scheduled for January 9-11, 2020. The application deadline is coming up fast: November 11, 2019.

The program is called DiVERGE (Diversity Visitation Event for Research and Graduate Education), and it was designed to expose chemistry- and biology-focused undergrads to the types of advanced biomedical research taking place at Scripps and their place in that picture as prospective doctoral students. DiVERGE is primarily geared toward students from underrepresented minority groups and backgrounds, including individuals from low-income families or first-generation college students.

Participants in our DiVERGE program will meet Scripps faculty members and current graduate students, tour the research laboratories, and learn about our summer programs for undergrads and Scripps’ top-10 ranked doctoral program in the chemical and biological sciences. Travel to the Scripps Research campus in Jupiter, Florida, as well as all food, lodging and other expenses will be paid by Scripps for the selected students.
The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (Fred Hutch) hosts a 9-week summer internship that is designed to provide biomedical research experience and mentorship for undergraduate students of rising senior status.

**About the Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP)**

The SURP is an intensive, 9-week internship designed to provide research experience and mentorship for rising-senior undergraduate students who are interested in biomedical research. Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, students will:

- Complete an independent research project;
- Attend weekly research seminars;
- Participate in professional development workshops designed to facilitate the preparation of competitive applications for graduate/medical school; and
- Present their findings at a competitive poster session.

The program will run from **Monday, June 15 – Friday, August 14, 2020**.

An [online application](https://education.scripps.edu/undergraduate/academic-year-research/ayriu/) for the 2020 SURP will be available via the SURP website in **mid-November 2019**.

The application deadline is midnight Pacific Standard Time (PST) on **Friday, January 10, 2020**. Letters of recommendation for up to two references are due by midnight Pacific Standard Time (PST) on **Friday, January 17, 2020**.

[Link to Application](https://education.scripps.edu/undergraduate/academic-year-research/ayriu/)
UM-SMART Undergraduate Summer Research Program
MEDICAL SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM (MD/PHD)

Program Dates:
May 26 – August 2, 2020
Application Opens:
October 21, 2019
Application Deadline:
January 17, 2020

Are you an undergraduate student who is interested in learning more about what it means to be a physician-scientist?

The UM-SMART program offers students an opportunity to participate in biomedical research and gain exposure to clinical medicine at Michigan Medicine, a highly ranked academic medical center with top 10 funding from the National Institutes of Health.

As a UM-SMART summer research fellow, you will work full-time in a basic research laboratory under the mentorship of a research faculty member. The UM-SMART program is designed to help you decide if a career as a physician-scientist is right for you and to enhance your competitiveness when applying to MD/PhD programs. After graduation, 76% of past participants entered MD/PhD, PhD, or MD programs.

Our 10-week program is aimed at students who have some amount of basic and mechanistic research experience related to medicine and are interested in gaining more experience to advance their career goals. UM-SMART is not intended for students seeking clinical research experience on human subjects. Additionally, we do not offer opportunities in public health, the social sciences or humanities.

The UM-SMART Program is designed for students who want to:

- Spend approximately 90% of their time under the direction of a faculty mentor in a research laboratory. The research experience is the core of the program and provides valuable experiences to support future applications. Students also have opportunities for professional development as detailed below.

- Receive a stipend of $4,400 plus double-occupancy dormitory housing on campus. A food allowance is provided to be used for meals at dining facilities on campus. Transportation costs up to $200 are reimbursed with receipts.

- Gain clinical exposure by participating in two half-day physician shadowing experiences.

- Attend the 3-day annual MSTP scientific retreat including participation in a poster session.

- Participate in self-paced online MCAT preparation.

- Participate in a research symposium that includes an oral and poster presentation on campus with undergraduate students from other University of Michigan biomedical research summer programs.

- Connect with a ‘Big Sib’ student advisor who is currently in the MSTP. Enjoy several social activities with the MSTP fellows.

- Attend UM-SMART specific seminars to learn more about the MD/PhD application process, career as a physician scientist, and biomedical science.

- Participate in a mock interview with a member of our Admissions Committee.

“...This experience helped tremendously in providing me with the necessary information to decide if in MSTP is the right path. It provided not only the opportunity to conduct full-time research, but also gave me opportunities to shadow physicians, have an MSTP student mentor, attend one-on-one meetings with other MD/PhD faculty in the University, and learn more about the admissions process.”

Stephanie, University of Puerto Rico

LEARN MORE: michmed.org/um-smart • CONTACT US: mstp@umich.edu
Eligibility

Applicants belonging to groups that have been traditionally underrepresented in biomedical research are strongly encouraged to apply. This includes:

- Individuals from underrepresented racial or ethnic groups.
- Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.
- Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds such as family annual income below established low-income thresholds, or in an educational environment that has inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career.

To be considered for acceptance in UM-SMART, applicants must:

- Be a current undergraduate student (completed sophomore year by June 1, 2020). We do not accept students who are applying to medical or graduate school in 2019 for possible admission in 2020.
- Be a US citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Have completed a physiology, biology, biochemistry or organic chemistry course, preferably with a grade of B or better.
- Have at least 100 hours of experience in a research lab by June 1, 2020. (This is in addition to completing a lab associated with a science course.)
- Submit two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a research mentor or the instructor of a laboratory course.
- Maintain a 3.2 cumulative grade point average or above.
- Show proof of health insurance.

The UM-SMART program is sponsored by the M3TP at the University of Michigan, a NIH-funded combined MD/PhD training program. M3TP graduates typically establish careers in academic medicine focused on basic research relevant to human disease. Clinical medicine generally is a small component of the MD/PhD career and serves primarily to inform and enhance the research.

All application materials must be received by January 17, 2020: michmed.org/um-smart

“Coming into the program, I was on the fence about whether or not I wanted to pursue an MD/PhD or just a PhD. Research was never out of the question for me, but I was scared about going into medicine because I know that it is a very taxing field. I’ve been able to shadow some wonderful physicians who said it is an worth it when they see the patients owing a better quality of life. This reminded me of what I love about exploring medicine as part of my career in the first place.”

Jordan, University of Michigan

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Link to Eventbrite
The PhD in Neurobiology at UTSA is accepting applications. While the program is housed in the Department of Biology, training faculty also come from the Electrical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, and Psychology departments. UTSA has recently expanded into Artificial Intelligence, which will offer opportunities for collaborations across Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. We have also recruited 3 more faculty with research focus in computational biology and behavior.

The program is designed to be completed in 5 years. In order to achieve this, students receive
continuous mentoring throughout their stay. A unique activity of our program is our Neuro Friday meetings. In this meeting, faculty and students gather to discuss, criticize, and improve drafts of grants and papers. This activity allows students to improve their grantsmanship in a supportive and encouraging environment, while receiving the perspective from multiple faculty working in different fields. The program also includes a weekly lunch and lecture series with speakers from across the country. Financial support (tuition & fees plus a competitive stipend) is guaranteed for 5 years.

For more information on UTSA, our faculty, and application process please visit the following links. The deadline for completed applications is December 1, 2019. For applications ready to submit before November 15, 2019 please contact the Biology office to get an application fee waiver (judith.espinoza@utsa.edu).

https://www.utsa.edu/biology/phd-neuro/
https://neuroscience.utsa.edu/Home.html
https://www.utsa.edu/bhc/

PhD Program in Genetics at UW-Madison

Our application is now open for Fall 2020 admissions. We have a December 1st deadline. The fee to apply is $75 dollars and you can apply to up to three programs at UW-Madison on one fee. The GRE is no longer required nor considered. Our PhD program is highly rated and NIH supported for over 45 continuous years. First year domestic students are awarded a slot on our training grant. We additionally offer Research Assistantships and have a current stipend rate at $28,000 per year for all students.

For more information, please visit our website! https://genetics.wisc.edu/ph-d-program/. Any questions can be directed to gradcoord@genetics.wisc.edu.

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General News and Updates

A link to seminars at the UCSF Hellen Diller Comprehensive Cancer Center for November are here.

A link to UCLA’s Graduate Programs in Bioscience newsletter for fall is here.