2027 UCLA
Summer Programs for Undergraduate/Graduate Research (SPUR) Booklet





Summer 2027

Dear Student,

Welcome to UCLA! We are delighted that you are participating in the UCLA Summer Programs for Undergraduate and Graduate Research (SPUR). These programs are designed to encourage and train students who are interested in learning more about graduate school and academic careers in research and teaching. You will have an exciting opportunity to work with faculty, postdoctoral scholars and graduate students on an individually mentored research project.

You will also learn first-hand about graduate programs at UCLA and develop a valuable network of contacts who can support and assist you in applying to graduate school. As one of a cohort of outstanding students chosen to participate in SPUR, we hope you will consider applying to UCLA for your graduate studies.

I hope that you will find your SPUR experience to be both intellectually stimulating and fun and that you will take advantage of the many resources UCLA offers. Please do not hesitate to contact a Program Coordinator if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance to you.

With best wishes for an enjoyable and rewarding summer,

Division of Graduate Education

Summer 2027

Dear Student,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2027 UCLA Summer Programs for Undergraduate and Graduate Research (SPUR). The various programs participating in SPUR have common goals: to provide students with knowledge, support, and experiences that will prepare them for graduate school, while providing them with insight about the career choices an advanced degree can offer, particularly for those interested in pursuing a future in research.

Programs involved in SPUR give students the opportunity to conduct research with a faculty member, graduate student, or postdoctoral mentor, participate in professional development workshops, and mediate connections with members of the community that can provide support and career guidance. It is our hope that you consider becoming part of the UCLA family by applying to one of our many graduate programs at the forefront of research, discovery, and change.

We hope you enjoy your time as a member of SPUR, and we look forward to serving you in your pursuit of opportunities in this new and changing world. Please do not hesitate to contact your Program Coordinator if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

The UCLA Undergraduate Research Center - Sciences

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Introduction

The UCLA Summer Programs for Undergraduate and Graduate Research (SPUR) Booklet is intended to provide detailed information about the programs' design, campus facilities and amenities. Included is information about workshops, program scheduling, individual program descriptions and sample schedules from a previous year's programs. The Booklet is intended to serve only as a guide and is not a comprehensive description of all policies and procedures of the program. **Individual Programs have final discretion on all decisions and policies.**

The UCLA SPUR programs run conjointly to expose participants to a myriad of learning and research opportunities. Interaction with intellectual peers from a variety of disciplines provides a more academically enriching environment. The common goal of the UCLA SPUR is to prepare participants for the graduate school experience. Participation in all of the programs requires a full-time commitment. Students are not to work nor enroll in courses during their 8- or 10-week program.

The program begins Monday, June 21, 2027 and ends Friday, August 13, 2027 (8-week program) or Friday, August 27, 2027 (10-week program). Primary check-in will be on the afternoon Sunday, June 20. Check-out of the program is before 11:00am on Saturday, August 14, 2027 (8-week program) or Friday, August 27, 2027 (10-week program).

Some programs may be on slightly different timelines, so please consult the program coordinators for confirmation. Although these programs are run collectively and have significant crossover, participants will have rather unique experiences.

The individual summer programs are:

- Amgen Scholars Program
- Brain Research Institute Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (BRI-SURE)
- Bruins in Genomics (BIG) Summer Research Program
- California State University Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Program
- Community College Field Biology Alliance
- Cultivating Interest in Research Careers
- HBCU – Evolutionary Medicine: Pathways to PhDs
- HBCU – Neuroscience Pathways Program
- Integrated and Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Program (i^2URP)
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Writing and Research Training Program

- Physics and Astronomy Research Experience for Undergraduates (Physics and Astronomy REU)
- University of California Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees (UC LEADS)
- UCLA Neuroscience Scholars Program (NeuroScholars)
- UCLA Public Health Scholars Training Program

Overview

The following is a description of the workshops, events, facilities and amenities made available to participants of the UCLA Summer Programs for Undergraduate/ Graduate Research (UCLA SPUR). Applicants should carefully review the information before applying to any of the programs to determine whether UCLA is an appropriate match. Also included are the policies and procedures of participation in the program. You may indicate up to two program choices on the online application.

A Typical Week

Participants will be engaged in a variety of research projects with their lab and will each have somewhat unique schedules. For most SPUR programs, primary research will be the central focus of your summer. Most students will participate in the SPUR Wednesday Workshops, hosted virtually from 9 AM – 10:30 AM. The workshops provide a dedicated opportunity for SPUR students across programs to come together, as students will spend the remainder of the week primarily engaged in research and activities within their individual programs. Please check with your program coordinator to learn more about your specific schedule. Previous workshop topics can be found below.

Scholastic and Practical Experience

The programs feature regular seminars on academic career opportunities, standardized test preparation, writing and research skills and strategies for enhancing success in applying to graduate school. Also scheduled are opportunities for informal discussion with UCLA graduate students as well as other cultural and educational activities.

The objective of the programs is to help prepare, motivate, encourage, and support students who wish to learn more about the graduate school experience and possibly pursing an academic career in teaching and research. The following is a list of some of the seminars offered in previous summers. This list does not guarantee that all indicated seminars will be offered this year.

Applying to Graduate School

This seminar provides participants with information and techniques for preparing for and applying to graduate programs. They will learn what academic preparation is necessary and how to research and identify compatible graduate programs.

Research Career Paths

This workshop is a discussion on various career options for PhDs.

Scientific Writing

This is seminar is on how to write a scientific manuscript as well as an abstract for the Summer Research Showcase.

Becoming a Resilient Scientist

This workshop is on strategies to deal with Imposter Syndrome and how to build resiliency as a scientist.

Graduate Student Panel

This is a discussion on the graduate school experience from the perspective of current UCLA graduate students. The graduate student panel will provide honest and open information on identifying appropriate graduate programs, selecting a dissertation committee and life as a graduate student at UCLA.

Preparing a Conference Presentation
This 1–2-hour workshop teaches effective public-speaking skills, offers tips on giving slide presentations and explains the mistakes commonly made by presenters. Participants will be given the opportunity to practice presenting a small part of their research to others and receive feedback to improve their presentation skills.

Summer Research Showcase
(STEM participants) Participants prepare a 10-minute virtual presentation. These talks are held virtually at the end of the 8-week and 10-week programs so that family, friends, and members of your home campus can attend your presentation.

University Policies

All participants are expected to adhere to UCLA's and SPUR policies. Failure to do so could result in the loss of some or all of the stipend, meal allowance and/or other monetary payments. There is also the possibility that those who do not follow policy will be terminated from the summer program and asked to leave the residence hall and UCLA campus.

Applicable policies include but are not limited to the following (visit the following website for full contents of the *UCLA Student Conduct Code:*
https://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/portals/16/documents/uclacodeofconduct_rev030416.pdf

Alcohol/Drug Policy
All participants shall abide by University laws and policies concerning the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages, and all other policies, procedures, rules and regulations of the University of California, Los Angeles campus, and UCLA Residential facilities. Possession of opened or visible containers (e.g., cups, cans, bottles, cases/boxes) anywhere within or on grounds immediately adjacent to the residential facilities except in an assigned room where the door is closed (for those residential guests over 21 years of age) or at a UCLA catered event is strictly prohibited. The University also prohibits: unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, use or sale of, or the attempted manufacture, distribution, dispensing or sale of controlled substances, identified in Federal and State law or regulations. Possession of paraphernalia for intended or implied use of controlled substances, or paraphernalia possessing controlled substance residue, are prohibited.

Plagiarism and Sexual Harassment
The Chancellor may impose discipline for the commission or attempted commission (including aiding or abetting in the commission or attempted commission) of the types of misconduct delineated in Section II.B of the *UCLA Code*. Discipline may be imposed whether or not such misconduct also violates the law, and whether or not proceedings are or have been pending in the courts involving the same acts. Because of this, students might be involved in University disciplinary proceedings before, after or during court proceedings. Violations or attempted violations include, but are not limited to, the following types of misconduct.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of another's words or ideas as if they were one's own, including, but not limited to, representing, either with the intent to deceive or by the omission of the true source, part of or an entire work produced by someone other than the student, obtained by purchase or otherwise, as the student's original work or representing the identifiable but altered ideas, data, or writing of another person as if those ideas, data, or writing were the student's original work.

Sexual Harassment

(from UCLA policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence)

The UC policy on Sexual Harassment states**:** Sexual harassment is unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, when submission to or rejection of this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects a person's employment or education, unreasonably interfered with a person's work or educational performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or learning environment. In the interest of preventing sexual harassment, the University will respond to reports of any such conduct.

Student Conduct Code Section 102.09 is applicable to the conduct of students who are not acting within the course and scope of UC employment. It provides: "Sexual Harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment is conduct that explicitly or implicitly affects a person's employment or education or interferes with a person's work or educational performance or creates an environment such that a reasonable person would find the conduct intimidating, hostile, or offensive. Sexual harassment includes sexual violence. The University will respond to reports of any such conduct in accordance with the Policy."

Facilities

Housing

The UCLA SPUR is a residential program, and participants are provided with residential facilities at UCLA. For Summer 2027, participants will be housed in one of UCLAs housing facilities (TBD). The accommodations call for shared rooming (**two or three people per room**), which will allow participants from across the country to interact and form friendships with others from diverse backgrounds. It may be possible that **no individual accommodations will be available.** Room changes are not allowed except under extenuating circumstances. Any rooming issues are to be addressed following the procedures described on the housing information sheet provided to all participants. **All UCLA SPUR accommodations are subject to change. Participants will be notified of confirmed residential accommodations prior to the start of all UCLA SPUR programs.*

All rooms are double occupancy. All rooms are air conditioned, non-smoking and equipped with Internet access. Participants are responsible for removing and dumping their own trash down the designated trash chute.

Rules for Residents

As a UCLA Resident, you are responsible for knowing and abiding by the On-Campus Housing policies and regulations as outlined in the Student Handbook available at https://reslife.ucla.edu/rules/ and as stipulated by SPUR and other offices responsible for overseeing the residences (e.g., Housing Services, Office of Residential Life, University Apartments, and Conference Services).

Overnight Guest Policy

Participants are welcome to have visitors, but are not permitted to have overnight guests. No exceptions.

Receiving Mail and Packages

When receiving packages, participants should ask the sender to include the participant's phone number and program name (i.e. CSU Pre DOC, UC LEADS, etc.) to avoid delays in receiving packages. Package delivery will vary depending on the UCLA facility – students will be informed of package delivery location upon check in to the residence.

Key & Access Card Agreement
Participants will be issued a room key-card at check-in. Participants will be responsible for any damaged, lost or stolen key-cards. Any lost key-cards must be replaced. The fee for a replacement key-card is $10.00; cost subject to increase. The occupant of the room who loses the key-card will be charged for these services. These amounts are subject to change. Updated information will be provided to participants during the check-in process.

Pets
No animals, except service animals, are permitted in the residential facilities.

Quiet Hours
Designated quiet hours are 10:00pm – 9:00am daily. Program participants serious about gaining maximum benefits of the program should be prepared to observe the quiet hours in respect of the study habits of their roommates and hall mates.

Computer Access

Participants are strongly encouraged to bring their own computers if possible. Although every student will be given access to computer labs on campus, access is limited due to reduced operating hours during the summer.

There is an Ethernet connection in each sleeping room. In order to connect to the Internet from the room, participants' computers must have an Ethernet card installed. Ethernet cards may be purchased through the Student Technology Center on the first floor of the residence hall. Note: There is only **one** port per room, and participants will be sharing a room with one other person.

Sample of computer lab hours *(subject to change)*

Lab	Location	Mon – Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
CLICC	Varies	9:00am–7:00pm	9:00am–5:00pm	9:00am–5:00pm	Closed
Graduate Student Resource Center (GSRC)	B11 Student Activities Center	9:00am–5:00pm	9:00am–5:00pm	Closed	Closed
Student Tech. Center	200 DeNeve Drive, Room L-06	7:30am–8:00pm	7:30am-6:00pm	9:00am-6:00pm	12:00pm-5:00pm

The Science & Engineering Library (SEL)

Included in the mission of the Science & Engineering Library is to: provide access to information generated by or of value to the engineering and the physical sciences research communities; develop, organize, and maintain a collection that attempts to meet the needs of its users; develop and strengthen working relationships with faculty, students, and staff; provide instruction that enables users to access and evaluate information resources; and participate in or respond quickly and creatively to the development of relevant technologies and standards.

Sample of SEL hours *(subject to change)*

Monday–Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:00am–5:00pm	Closed	Closed

Health Insurance

UCLA **does not offer** a health insurance plan for non-UCLA summer program participants. It is very important for participants to understand that insurance will **not** be provided during the period of the program. Thus, **all participants are required to show proof of insurance that is valid during the period of their particular program.** Those without such documentation will be ineligible to participate in SPUR. There are no exceptions to this policy.

For those who need insurance, participants may purchase a Visiting Scholar Plan. For more information, please visit https://clients.garnett-powers.com/vs/ucla/

Parking

Though we recommend students without a specific need for transportation do not bring a car, parking permits for the summer are expected to be available for purchase. Permit prices are controlled by the UCLA Parking Services office and will be confirmed one to two months before the beginning of the summer. Please notify your program director if you plan to bring a car. A UCLA ID number, which can be arranged for you by your program representative and an offer letter stating you will be participating in summer research may be needed at the time of purchasing. Motorcycles and scooters park for free in designated spaced located in many parking lots and structures around campus.

Recreational Facilities

Campus recreational facilities will be available only to participants living in summer program housing. The room keycard allows admission to all recreational facilities. The John Wooden Center and Sunset Canyon Recreational Center include swimming pools, weight rooms, tennis courts, racquetball courts and handball courts. Exercise classes are also offered. Registration and payment for these activities are the responsibility of the participant.

Amenities

Meals

Dining Halls near the Residential Halls are open for meals in the summer. Some programs may provide meal plans, please inquire with your specific program coordinator to learn more.

Laundry Facilities

Participants have access to laundry facilities within the residence hall. Hours of operation are from 7:00am through 11:00pm. To reduce noise levels and to respect the rest and study of dorm mates, participants are asked to refrain from using the laundry room from 10:00pm to 9:00am. The cost per load is $2.50 to wash and $2.50 to dry (prices are subject to change).

Travel Arrangements

All participants living on-campus are expected to arrive on Sunday, June 16, 2024. Generally, check-in begins at 2 PM (subject to change). Some programs will make all roundtrip air travel arrangements. Others will reimburse travel up to the set limits: a maximum of $200 for travel within California (but outside the Los Angeles area) or a maximum of $450 for travel outside California. Please check with the appropriate Program Coordinator to see if you or the program will be making the travel plans. In those programs where travel is arranged for the participant: **Applicants who have accepted participation in the program and who make last-minute**

changes in travel will be fully responsible for the full cost of travel changes and/or cancellations. Plan to arrive at UCLA on Sunday, June 16 and leave Los Angeles, Saturday, August 10 (for the 8-week program) or Friday, August 23 (for the 10-week program).

Participants who are flying into the Los Angeles area will be responsible for arranging their own transportation between the airport and the campus. Participants should come prepared with enough funds to pay for taxi fare or rideshare services. Students can also use taxi services for drop-off at the housing location. Those participants who have not already reached the travel allowance may request reimbursement for shuttle or taxi fare up to the maximum allotted amount. To request a reimbursement, participants MUST submit an **original** receipt to his or her Program Coordinator. No original receipt = no reimbursement.

Check-In

Check-in time is expected to be any time after 1 PM on Sunday, June 20, 2027. The UCLA SPUR Coordinators will be present to welcome and assist you with the check-in process. Luggage storage for those who arrive outside of allotted hours will be arranged. Students will be notified prior to program start of the location for luggage storage.

A room key-card will be provided upon check-in. Participants will be able to purchase parking permits/access cards at check-in if reserved in advance (see cancellation policy and penalty information in the section on Parking above). **Failure to return these items to the designated official could result in a charge of $100 per item not returned by or at check-out.**

Check-Out

You must check out before 11:00am on Saturday, August 14, 2027 (for the 8-week program) or Friday, August 27, 2027 (for the 10-week program). Later check-out times are not available. The room key-card and mail keys must be returned at check-out. **Participants will be charged for any items that have not been returned to the official in charge at check-out.** Late check-out without prior Front Desk approval or not checking out with the official in charge will result in charges to the participant equivalent to one night's room rate (not per-person rate) for each night the participant is not officially checked out.

Amgen Scholars Program

The Amgen Scholars Program is a national program to increase learning and networking opportunities for students committed to pursuing a career in science or engineering. Students interested in summer research in any area of biomedical science, chemistry, bioengineering or chemical engineering are encouraged to apply. Students will be paired with a UCLA faculty mentor if the student does not already have one. The Program typically includes stipend; housing; meals; 2-day biotechnology conference; luncheons with faculty; workshops; seminars and poster presentations.

- For undergraduates enrolled in four-year colleges and universities in the U.S., Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.
- Only U.S. Citizens or permanent residents may apply.
- For sophomores (with 4 quarters or 3 semesters of college experience), juniors and non-graduating seniors (who are returning in the fall to continue their undergraduate experience).
- Must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.2 or above.
- Must be interested in pursuing a Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.
- 10 weeks (all participants must be able to attend the program for its entire duration. Be sure to check your fall term start date before applying).
- Open to Biochemistry; Bioengineering; Bioinformatics; Biopsychology; Biotechnology; Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering; Chemistry; Immunology; Medical Pharmacology; Microbiology; Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology; Molecular Genetics; Molecular Medicine; Molecular Pharmacology; Neurobiology; Neuroscience; Pathology; Physiological Psychology; Physiological Science; Statistics; Toxicology Majors/Programs.
- Program application includes SPUR application + Application packet + Survey. All components available at: https://sciences.ugresearch.ucla.edu/programs-and-scholarships/amgen-scholars/#application

For more information:
Kim Mendez
Program Representative
Email: AmgenSch@lifesci.ucla.edu

Bruins-In-Genomics (B.I.G.) Summer Program

Starting in 2026, Bruins-In-Genomics (B.I.G. Summer) focuses on students sponsored by a UCLA faculty. Unfortunately, we can no longer support applicants from outside UCLA.

Applicants must be:

- Conducting research at UCLA
- Interested in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics
- Planning to apply to graduate school in Fall 2026 or Fall 2027
- Preferably have taken some Bioinformatics courses

For more information:
Email: bigsummer@ucla.edu

Brain Research Institute Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (BRI-SURE)

The UCLA Brain Research Institute (BRI) sponsors a summer undergraduate research experience (BRI-SURE) pathway program for students currently participating in honors research programs at other colleges and universities across the nation. BRI-SURE is an 8-week, hybrid, intensive summer training for exceptional students seeking to pursue research careers in Neuroscience or Physiology. The program is designed to provide a rigorous, in-depth research experience to prepare participants for top-quality Ph.D. and M.D./Ph.D. graduate programs. BRI-SURE participants will:

a. Conduct independent research with outstanding faculty mentors, working in a cutting-edge scientific and technological environment
b. Gain exposure to some of the nation's finest biomedical investigators and an extensive variety of research topics
c. Receive individualized career counseling and develop career interests
d. Participate in workshops, seminars, and journal clubs
e. Build a social network with student peers and faculty
f. Prepare to apply to the best Neuroscience and Physiology Ph.D. programs

BRI-SURE selects participants based on academic achievement and leadership. We will engineer a robust and rewarding research experience, including (1) analysis of data from ongoing experiments, (2) modeling of biological or behavioral systems, (3) computerized coding, and a variety of other analysis tools/methods. During the summer research experience, host labs will train scholars to conduct a rigorous research project, culminating in a poster competition. Apart from conducting experiments, students will be involved in activities that enrich their summer experience, including (1) writing a research paper, (2) exploring the Ph.D. career path, (3) learning about applying to programs and funding opportunities, (4) participating in research journal clubs, seminars, and career panels, (5) preparing abstracts and posters, and (6) visiting cultural centers in Los Angeles (e.g., California Museums, the California Science Center, the Hammer Museum, the Getty Center). The program is under the administration of the UCLA Summer Programs in Undergraduate Research (SPUR) umbrella.

Applicants must submit the following:

a. Completion of BRI online application form
b. Academic transcript (unofficial is acceptable)
c. Personal statement (limit: 1000 words) detailing your leadership in/commitment to scientific research
d. Summary of prior research (limit: 1000 words)
e. Summary of interest in neuroscience/physiology (limit: 500 words)
f. Two letters of recommendation from science faculty

For more information:

Dr. Ketema Paul
Program Director, BRI-SURE
Email: ketema.paul@ucla.edu

Mr. Ethan Snook
Program Coordinator
Email: esnook@mednet.ucla.edu

California State University (CSU) Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars Program

This program is restricted to undergraduate and master's-level students in the California State University Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Program. The Program is designed to increase the pool of potential university faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of CSU students who have experienced economic and educational disadvantages. Each of the selected CSU Sally Casanova pre-doctoral scholars works closely during the academic year with a CSU faculty sponsor to develop an overall plan leading ultimately to enrollment in a doctoral program. Each of these plans is tailored to specific goals and educational objectives of the student. The Program places special emphasis on increasing the number of CSU students who enter doctoral programs at one of the University of California institutions. Summer Program includes: stipend, on-campus housing or housing allowance, meal allowance, funds toward roundtrip transportation cost, GRE test preparation, workshops and oral presentations.

- Open to all current CSU Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars, both graduate and undergraduate
- 8-week program
- CSU Scholars complete only the UCLA SPUR online application after they have approval from the UCLA SPUR Coordinator; do not submit supplemental materials
- To become a CSU Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholar, please contact the program representative on your CSU campus

For more information:
Christopher Murphy, Ed.D.
Graduate Education Access Specialist
California Pre-Doctoral Program
California State University, Office of the Chancellor
Email: cpmurphy@calstate.edu

Gabriela Medina & Erika Salazar
CSU Pre-Doctoral Summer Program Coordinators
UCLA Division of Graduate Education
Email: gmedina@grad.ucla.edu

Community College Field Biology Alliance

This is an 8-month research internship designed for community college students. Student interns are assigned a graduate and undergraduate research mentor and meet remotely on the first Saturday of each month from May to June to design a field biology-based research project. In July we travel as a group to a remote field station for 7 days to enact the planned intern research projects. The program culminates with student research presentations in December.

Eligibility Requirements:
- Full-time community college student
- Interest in environmental science, ecology, animal behavior, botany, and similar fields

- Ability to attend all monthly meetings and field excursion (all expenses covered by the program)

For more information:
Amanda N. Robin-Rich
Founder & Program Director
UCLA Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department
Email: robina@ucla.edu

Cultivating Interest in Research Careers (CIRC)

The Cultivating Interest in Research Careers (CIRC) program is a partnership between University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU). The program starts with a ten-week summer research program at UCLA, AND extends into a year-long continuum. The goal of CIRC is to provide community college students with hands-on exposure and training in scientific research aligned with the scientific mission of the NHLBI.

The CIRC program will provide these community college students with educational workshops, near-peer mentoring, and skills to help them transfer to a 4-year college or university and ultimately be prepared to pursue a health profession or scientific research career.

Eligibility requirements:

A. U.S. citizen or permanent resident
B. Have taken at least one college course in the general domains listed below and have composite grade point average of 3.2 or above in this coursework:
    1. Oral Communication
    2. Written Communication
    3. Critical Thinking
    4. Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning
C. Must be able to attend the entire duration of the program

For more information:
Humberto Sanchez, B.A.
CDU Program Manager
Email: humbertosanchez@cdrewu.edu

HBCU: Evolutionary Medicine - Pathways to PhDs

The HBCU: Evolutionary Medicine-Pathways to PhDs program is open to undergraduate juniors and seniors from HBCUs. Participants will work on Evolutionary Medicine topics at UCLA. Evolutionary Medicine is the study of how evolutionary and ecological principles affect medicine and medical applications, and how medical and clinical problems generate new research questions and ideas in evolution. Evolutionary medicine is fast emerging as an important new field in biomedical sciences. Representing an interdisciplinary subject that combines ecology and evolutionary biology, anthropology, psychology, zoology, systems biology and microbiology with medicine, the field of evolutionary medicine has the potential to transform the way biomedical researchers and doctors

examine medical questions, conduct biomedical research, and treat patients. Summer interns will work closely with a principal investigator (PI) from UCLA's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department and a PI from the David Geffen School of Medicine.

Application Requirements:

- Undergraduate juniors and seniors from HBCUs to work on Evolutionary Medicine topics at UCLA
- Send all application materials to Dr. Pamela Yeh

For more information:
Dr. Pamela Yeh
Program Director
UCLA Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Email: pamelayeh@ucla.edu

UCLA-HBCU Neuroscience Pathways Program

The UC-HBCU Neuroscience Pathways Program is an 8-week summer enrichment program for undergraduate students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States. The program is open to undergraduate students from all backgrounds that major in a natural science and are in good academic standing. The goals of the program are: to increase the impact on students and faculty at both HBCU partner institutions and UCLA, and to incentivize quality mentorship of interns in our UCLA host labs.

A cohort of interested students will be invited to spend the summer on campus conducting research in appropriate host laboratories. The training, executed by host lab Principal Investigators, will be commensurate with the students' experiences at their home institution. Activities include, but are not limited to, (1) analysis of data from ongoing experiments, (2) modeling of biological or behavioral systems, (3) computerized coding, and a variety of other analysis tools/methods. We will engage in active research and teaching partnerships that accompany students before and beyond the 8-week internship. To incentivize graduate studies at UCLA for HBCU interns, the UCLA Brain Research Institute will offer a full 5-year stipend – disbursed annually – for at least one student accepted into the graduate Neuroscience Interdepartmental Program (gNSIDP). Furthermore, we will conduct outcome studies and publish them in a peer-reviewed journal. During the Program, host labs will train Neuroscience Pathways fellows to conduct a rigorous research project, culminating in a poster competition. Apart from conducting experiments, students will be involved in activities that enrich their summer experience, including (1) writing a research paper, (2) exploring the Ph.D. career path, (3) learning about applying to programs and funding opportunities, (4) participating in research journal clubs, seminars, and career panels, (5) preparing abstracts and posters, and (6) visiting cultural centers in Los Angeles (e.g., California Museums, the California Science Center, the Hammer Museum, the Getty Center).

Applicants must submit the following:

a. Completion of BRI online application form
b. Academic transcript (unofficial is acceptable)
c. Personal statement (limit: 1000 words) detailing your leadership in/commitment to scientific research

d. Summary of prior research (limit: 1000 words)
e. Summary of interest in neuroscience/physiology (limit: 500 words)
f. Two letters of recommendation from science faculty

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must attend a Historically Black College or University (HBCU)
- Natural science majors (including psychology) preferred

For more information:
Dr. Hakeem Lawal
Program Director
Email: hlawal@ucla.edu

Mr. Ethan Snook
Program Coordinator
Email: esnook@mednet.ucla.edu

Integrated and Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Program (i²URP)

The i²URP is a two-year program that offers junior and senior UCLA students the opportunity to work closely with faculty on biomedical research topics during the academic year and summer. The i²URP is an intensive program to prepare students for Ph.D. studies, alone or as part of a MSTP program. It is not appropriate for students planning to pursue only an M.D. degree.

The i²URP is supported in part by a grant to the Regents of the University of California from the HH Medical Institute through the Precollege and Undergraduate Science Education Program.

Program Eligibility:

- Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, entering their junior year for the coming academic year (must not have more than 145 total units)
- Minimum G.P.A. of 3.5
- Be interested in pursuing graduate degrees (Ph.D., MSTP)

For more information:
Alec Hernandez
Program Representative
UCLA Undergraduate Research Center
Email: hhurp@lifesci.ucla.edu

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Writing and Research Training Program

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Writing and Research Training Program at UCLA is an intensive writing and research program for 20 current Mellon Mays Fellows from participating Mellon Mays colleges and universities. Fellows participate in a rigorous scholarly writing and research

methodology course, individual and group mentoring sessions, workshops, events, and a final research colloquium. The program also includes on-campus housing and a meal allowance.

- Applicants must be current Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows at their colleges or universities
- For rising juniors (first-year MMUF students) or seniors (second-year MMUF students)
- 6-weeks
- Please note that students will NOT be paired directly with a faculty mentor but will take an intensive writing and research course. Students will NOT take a GRE preparation course as part of the program
- Admission to the program is rolling; applicants are advised to apply early due to limited space. Applications will be considered after the deadline only if space is available.
- A complete application includes the submission of the online application form, as well as a brief research statement, a description of summer research goals, and a statement from the student's MMUF coordinator. See the program website for full details of supplementary application materials.

For more information:
Undergraduate Research Center – Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
Email: urhass@college.ucla.edu

Physics and Astronomy Research Experience for Undergraduate (Physics & Astronomy REU)

The University of California, Los Angeles, will offer a research experience program in Physics and Astronomy in which undergraduate students will work with a faculty mentor, as well as other professors, researchers and graduate students on a research project. All interested students are invited to apply for this 10-week summer program. The participants will gain direct experience by working in ongoing experimental or theoretical research programs in plasma and beam physics, solid state physics, astrophysics and high-energy physics. All students will attend weekly seminars on current research in physics and will attend machine shop and Physics GRE workshops. The experience will culminate with the writing of a report and presentation of findings at a closing Symposium. The educational part of the program will include social events with participants in other campus research programs, an astronomy camping trip and exploration of the Southern California area.

- 10 weeks
- Participants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in physics or astrophysics
- Student must have finished at least one year of college but may not have completed a B.S. or B.A. degree
- Student must have a minimum 3.0 G.P.A.
- College students from two-year or four-year institutions may apply
- Women and students from traditionally underrepresented groups and institutions are encouraged to apply

For more information:
Website: https://www.pa.ucla.edu/undergraduate-research-experience.html

University of California Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees (UC LEADS)

This program is restricted to current University of California undergraduate students in the UC system-wide UC LEADS Program. In line with the goals of the two-year program, the 2nd summer research program seeks to develop the students by providing research and educational experiences to further prepare them to assume positions of leadership in academia, industry, government and public service. UC LEADS students who are considering UCLA for graduate studies/Ph.D. should seriously consider applying to UCLA's summer program as a way to familiarize themselves with the campus and to network with potential mentors. The UCLA UC LEADS Summer Program includes: GRE test preparation, workshops and seminars, and the opportunity to present summer research findings at the end of summer symposium/poster session.

- Academic Level: Open to 2nd-year summer UC LEADS students (those from other UC campuses who have completed their first year in the program)
- Open to Depts/Disciplines: Open to all departments and disciplines in Science, Engineering, & Math
- 10 weeks
- It is the UC LEADS scholar's responsibility to secure a commitment from the UCLA faculty host BEFORE applying to the program. Questions about the process should be addressed to the student's UC CAMPUS UC LEADS Coordinator.
- UC LEADS Scholars complete only the UCLA SPUR online application **after** they have summer placement confirmation from the UCLA UC LEADS Coordinator. Scholars do NOT need to submit supplemental materials with their applications.

For more information:
David Gray
UC LEADS Director
Email: dgray@college.ucla.edu

RaShawna Williams
Program Representative
Email: rwilliams@college.ucla.edu

UC-HSI Superior Opportunities for Maximizing Access to Neuroscience (SOMA)

The Superior Opportunities for Maximizing Access (SOMA) to Neuroscience Program is named after the cell bodies of neurons housing the genetic programs for critical cellular functions. The SOMA program is open to all undergraduate and Master's students, supporting participation in neuroscience and, ultimately, the pursuit of a neuroscience doctoral degree. Each year, we welcome a group of interested students from Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) – e.g., CSU Long Beach, CSU Los Angeles, CSU Dominguez Hills, and CSU San Bernardino, etc. – for an 8-week, immersive, in-person experience at UCLA conducting research in a host laboratory. We aim to incentivize the relationship between UCLA and its partner HSI institutions on three fronts:

1. SOMA Fellow & UCLA Faculty: We provide UCLA mentors with summer research funds to purchase supplies supporting their research, provided that the research objectives include the SOMA trainee.
2. HIS Partner Faculty Mentors: We also provide HSI mentors with funding to prepare SOMA fellows for participation in summer research (through a joint journal club and lab meeting). This can be used flexibly for travel, the cost of research, and/or instruction.
3. SOMA Alumni: To incentivize the choice of a UCLA Ph.D., the Brain Research Institute has committed to providing full stipend support for 1 SOMA alumnus admitted to and entering the Neuroscience IDP each year of the grant.

As such, we place a heavy emphasis on collecting trainee outcome data and disseminating our findings in poster form at the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) annual meeting. We will host a comprehensive research environment for the 2027 Program by taking advantage of on-campus tools, engineering a robust and rewarding experience. Activities include, but are not limited to, (1) analysis of data from ongoing experiments, (2) modeling of biological or behavioral systems, (3) computerized coding, and a variety of other analysis tools/methods. During the Program, host labs will train SOMA fellows to conduct a rigorous research project, culminating in a poster competition. Apart from conducting experiments, students will be involved in activities that enrich their summer experience, including (1) writing a research paper, (2) exploring the Ph.D. career path, (3) learning about applying to programs and funding opportunities, (4) participating in research journal clubs, seminars, and career panels, (5) preparing abstracts and posters, and (6) visiting cultural centers in Los Angeles (e.g., California Museums, the California Science Center, the Hammer Museum, the Getty Center). The program is under the administration of the UCLA Summer Programs in Undergraduate Research (SPUR) umbrella.

Applicants must submit the following:

a. Completion of BRI online application form
b. Academic transcript (unofficial is acceptable)
c. Curriculum vitae (CV)
d. Summary of prior research (limit: 500 words)
e. Summary of interest in neuroscience/physiology (limit: 1000 words)
f. Two letters of recommendation from science faculty

For more information:
Dr. Alicia Izquierdo
Program Director
Email: profizquierdobns@gmail.com

Mr. Ethan Snook
Program Coordinator
Email: esnook@mednet.ucla.edu

UCLA Neuroscience Scholars Program (NeuroScholars)

The UCLA Neuroscience Scholars Program is a 10-week intensive summer research training experience for exceptional UCLA sophomore and junior undergraduates that are committed to pursuing a graduate degree in neuroscience. Neuroscience Scholars will be paired with a UCLA

faculty mentor based on their research interests. Students will conduct discovery research in the laboratories of their faculty mentors. The program also includes: on-campus housing, $5000 stipend, journal clubs, lunches with faculty, career development workshops, seminars, and poster presentations.

- For sophomore and junior undergraduates in Neuroscience, Physiological Sciences, Psychobiology and other neurobiology-related fields
- Must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.2 or above
- Must be interested in pursuing a Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.
- Must be able to devote full-time effort over the entire duration of the 10-week program
- Previous research experience is preferred

Applicants must submit

1. UCLA SPUR online application
2. Personal statement summarizing your neuroscience research interests (limit: 1000 words)
3. List of 3-5 neuroscience faculty mentors that you would like to work with
4. Summary of prior research, if any (limit: 1000 words)
5. Two letters of recommendation from science faculty
6. Resume/CV
7. Academic transcript

For more information:
Dr. Jeff Donlea & Dr. Elaine Hsiao
Program Directors
Email: NeuroScholars@ucla.edu

UCLA Public Health Scholars Training Program

The UCLA Public Health Scholars Training Program provides undergraduate students and recent college graduates from across the country the opportunity to explore the field of public health through hands-on training, structured workshops, group events, leadership, and professional development.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, Permanent Resident, or DACA recipient
- Must be authorized to work in the U.S.
- Must attend U.S. or U.S. territory institution
- Educational background – Applicants must meet one of the following criteria:
    - Community college graduates or transfers to a four-year institution; OR
    - Current students in a four-year institution with at least two years of undergraduate education completed; OR
    - Recent graduates (Fall 2026 or Winter/Spring 2027) from a 2-year or 4-year college/university who have not been accepted to a graduate program
- Interest in exploring a career in the field of public health
- Open to all majors/disciplines
- Ability to be present in L.A. and participate in program activities from June 20 – August 14, 2027
- Willingness to attend social and volunteer events on evenings and occasional weekends

- Willingness to stay engaged with program for alumni tracking, professional development opportunities, maintaining contact with cohort, and participate in recruitment for future cohorts
- Successful submission to all application materials
- There is no GPA requirement

For more information:
Public Health Scholars Team
Email: phscholars@ph.ucla.edu

Frequently Asked Questions

Application Process

When is my application due?
For your application to be considered complete, **all** materials must be **received** by the Program's deadline. This includes verification of financial aid, transcripts and letters of recommendation. Incomplete applications will not be given full consideration.

May I apply for more than one program?
Yes. On the online application, you have the option to indicate up to two summer programs for which to be considered.

How will I know if my online application is complete?
Once you've completed entering the application information, you must hit the "submit" button. Once you do, you will receive a confirmation page to keep for your records.

How will I know if my support materials have been received?
Applicants can review the status of their application via the SPUR application website at: https://grad.ucla.edu/admissions/diversity/summer-programs-for-undergraduate-research-spur/online-application/ by clicking on the "view status of your application" link. Information will be updated as materials are received.

May I apply if my GPA is less than the stated minimum?
Be sure to check the eligibility requirements for the specific program(s) to which you are applying. In some cases, you might still apply, but as these are all very competitive programs, a lower GPA may be a disadvantage.

How can I tell if I need to fill out the financial aid verification form?
Financial aid is usually given in the form of repayable loans (e.g., Stafford). Students receiving grants or stipends that do not have to be paid back are **not** receiving financial aid. Be sure to complete the online application according to your situation. If you are receiving a grant or scholarship and you check the "receiving financial aid box," we will await your financial aid verification. Your application will be considered incomplete until the verification is received.

May I fax in materials to meet the deadline?
Original documents are required. Special consideration will be given to applicants who are currently overseas. It is highly recommended that you contact the Program Coordinator to establish a reasonable plan of action.

Must all materials be submitted at one time?
Letters of recommendation, transcripts and verification of financial aid package may arrive under separate cover but **all must be received** by the Program's deadline.

How may SPUR participants each year?
The number of participants varies each year. There were approximately 250 participants in the 2019 SPUR cohort.

One or more pieces of my contract information have changed, how can I update my application information?
You may access the online application and select the update information option. You will be asked to enter your email address and passwords to access your record.

Do I need to have a faculty mentor selected before applying to the program?
Depending on the program, you are not at any disadvantage if you do not have a pre-selected faculty mentor. A faculty mentor may be arranged for you if you are selected to participate in the program. However, if you wish to suggest a faculty mentor, first we suggest reaching out to the Student Affairs Officer in the faculty member's department. The Student Affairs Officer may be able to offer insight to potential faculty mentors for you to contact. Not all programs will pair students with faculty mentor, please check with your program of interest for more information. Contact information for individual departments can be found on the UCLA Division of Graduate Education website at https://grad.ucla.edu/

How is my application reviewed?
Applications will be sent to the coordinator of the program deemed to be best suited for the student and his/her research interests. Consequently, you may be contacted by a coordinator from a program that differs from the one to which you had originally applied. A faculty review committee set up by the specific program will review all applications for that program.

How will a faculty mentor be selected for me?
Depending on the program, each student participant will be assigned to a faculty mentor with special expertise and interests matched, as closely as possible, to the participant's research interests and career goals. Participants will either assist the faculty member in an ongoing research project or work collaboratively with their mentor in designing a new project or mutual interest. If you wish to suggest a faculty mentor, we suggest reaching out to the Student Affairs Officer in the faculty member's department. Not all programs will pair students with faculty mentor, please check with your program of interest for more information. Contact information for individual departments can be found on the UCLA Division of Graduate Education website at https://grad.ucla.edu/

Am I able to enroll in summer classes while participating in the summer research program?
The program is quite intensive and requires a full-time commitment. It is highly recommended that you not enroll in classes during the summer.

Guidelines for Faculty Mentors and Student Participants

Student Expectations

Participants will be assigned to ongoing research projects based on their defined area of research interest. **Participants are required to contact their assigned faculty mentor once on the UCLA campus to discuss the nature of the work to be undertaken and to develop a schedule for future contact and project research**.

Each student's specific research program will differ according to the faculty mentor and subject matter. Only in some cases will research undertaken by the student be "original." In all cases, however, participants should be shown where and how their work fits the overall goal or direction of the mentor's research.

Participants should expect to put in a full-time effort on their projects, which may include work on evenings and weekends, as the project and mentor/advisor may require. Research mentors will expect continued and sustained work throughout the eight or ten weeks from the student researchers.

Participants should expect **to meet at least once a week** with their research mentor/advisor, or more often depending on the project and the mentor's arrangement. Less frequent contact is not advised unless the research mentor/advisor will be away from campus or unless prior arrangements are made.

Participants will be expected to meet with the program staff/graduate assistant once a week during regularly scheduled meetings to discuss the progress of the research project.

After discussion with the faculty mentor, participants will be required to submit a research proposal that will be due no later than the end of the third week of the program. This proposal will outline the research to be conducted and expected results of the project.

At the end of the program, humanities and social science participants will be required to prepare an oral presentation about research results and conclusions. Science students will be required to prepare a poster presentation about research results and conclusions. A final paper must also be submitted to the Program Director(s) and to the faculty mentor by the end of the eight-week of the program. The length of the paper should be a minimum of 12 typed, double-spaced pages.

Participants can expect advice and guidance about graduate school admission, graduate work career opportunities in research and teaching, and the nature of academic life from the research group and from the Summer Programs for Undergraduate Research staff.

Participants will be asked to evaluate the program and their research experience at various periods during the program and beyond.

Faculty Mentor Expectations

Research mentors are asked to interact with the student researcher to integrate him/her fully into the research team, and to supervise the student's research activities. Participants **should not** be involved with daily clerical responsibilities nor should their work be mainly composed of laboratory maintenance.

Research mentors should work with the student(s) to develop a work schedule for the student's project, outline research goals and methodologies, and establish guidelines for the student researchers to follow. The Program Coordinators may ask for a written outline of the student's work plan (proposal) by the end of the third week of the program.

Research mentors will acquaint participants with the "culture" of research and will discuss career opportunities in the discipline, especially teaching and academic research. One of the program benefits to the student is developing a professional relationship with the faculty mentor. Frequent interaction with the student provides the mentor with knowledge about the student's ability, work, performance, and potential for graduate school. Participants will therefore be encouraged to ask their mentors for letters of recommendation when they apply to graduate school.

Research mentors should help the student prepare the final report of the project and develop the oral presentation or the poster for the research symposium at the end of the session. The mentor and/or the graduate student program assistants will also be responsible for editing the student's paper for final submission to the graduate division.

Research mentors are expected to be in contact with the participants before they arrive on campus in order to outline the nature of the project and, if possible, provide a preliminary reading list. Participants will be instructed in their letters to contact you, his or her faculty mentor, by telephone or email to discuss the nature of the research project that will be conducted during this eight-or-ten-week program.

Research mentors may expect ongoing written or oral reports (or both) from the participants as deemed necessary. Research mentors will be asked at the end of the program to submit an evaluation form on the student's work.

If a student must miss a required activity because of the research project or other related activity as required by the faculty mentor, the student will be asked to inform the staff by email and copy you on this message. This is done to maintain communication between faculty mentors and the program.

Research mentors are encouraged to attend their student's research presentation to be given at the research symposium at the end of the program. **Participants must complete all requirements for the program, and all work must be judged by the faculty mentor to be satisfactory.** Participants will be requested to have faculty mentor signatures on all assignments.