

UM-SMART Undergraduate Summer Research Program

MEDICAL SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM (MD/PhD)



Tentative Program Dates:

10 week program from end of May to early August

Application Opens:

Approximately November 1st

Application Deadline:

Mid-late January

Please review our website for specific dates.

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

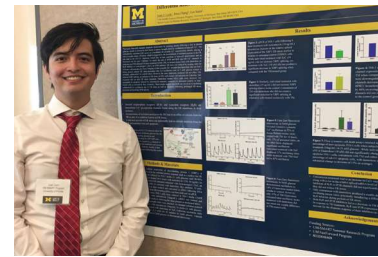
The UM-SMART program offers students an opportunity to participate in biomedical research and gain exposure to clinical medicine at Michigan Medicine, a highly ranked academic medical center with top-10 funding from the National Institutes of Health.

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, 78% 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 \$4,700 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 \$500 are reimbursed with receipts.
- Gain clinical exposure by participating in two half-day physician shadowing experiences.
- Attend the 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 an 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



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 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 and have completed at least sophomore year before beginning the UM-SMART program.
- Be a US citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Have completed a physiology, biology, biochemistry or organic chemistry course, preferably with lab.
- Have at least 100 hours of experience in a research lab before beginning the program. (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 MSTP at the University of Michigan, a NIH-funded combined MD/PhD training program. MSTP 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 including letters of recommendations must be received by application deadline in mid-late January: michmed.org/um-smart



"My goals were orientated around figuring out whether I wanted to do a PhD vs. a MD/PhD. I really wanted to know why other MD/PhDs and MSTP students chose the paths that they did. I was able to talk to numerous people during the program, which I greatly benefitted from."

Varun, University of Michigan