2026 UT Summer Research Program

Highlights and Application Process

OVERVIEW
The UTSW Medical Student Summer Research Program provides a full-time investigative research experience for medical students. Program students will undertake a basic, clinical, or translational research project for the summer, which is intended to increase their scientific knowledge and skills and enable them to benefit from a rich research experience. Students will also attend a series of weekly lunch-time seminars in which faculty discuss the fundamentals of basic and clinical research.

TIMELINE:
Application opens: Nov 1st
Letter of Intent due: Feb 6th
Completed application due: March 1st
Award notification: approx. March 27th
Summer Program Dates: June to July 2026

Find Application & Project Indexes Here →

APPLICATION PROCESS
Applicants are advised to review the list of previous Summer Research Projects to get a feel for projects previously selected for funding and to see a list of faculty who have already demonstrated an interest in being research mentors.

In the fall, students should begin to identify labs and faculty that investigate biomedical topics of interest and have possible projects for summer research. Once the student and mentor decide to apply with a specific project, both need to complete the Letter of Intent **(due Feb 6th).** Then**,** they will work in tandem to develop the research proposal and mentor training plan to be included in the student's application **(due March 1st).**

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
The application requires general student information as well as:

1. **Project Proposal (500-1000 words):** This proposal, co-written by the mentor and student, should delineate the student's anticipated project. It should include the background, aim, hypothesis, methods, and statistical analysis plan. Please make sure the proposal is tailored for a summer research project, and not a general lab abstract or an abstract from a broad grant proposal. We value new, data-producing research.
2. **Mentor Training Plan (125-250 words)** - The Mentor training plan describes the anticipated research experience for the student, as well as the mentor's lab environment. This plan should be co-written by the mentor and student and include how the mentor will be involved in training the student on the proposed project, who will guide the applicant on day-to-day technical issues, what formal and informal seminars, laboratory meetings, journal clubs, etc. will be used to enrich the student's scientific development, and the adequacy of physical resources, including computer resources, to support the proposed project during the fellowship term.
3. **Personal Essays (approx. 200 words EACH): 1)** What is your educational, research, and or employment experience as it relates to your continued training in research? **2)** What are your plans for professional or graduate education and how does research fit into those plans?
4. **Letter of recommendation**- from a mentor, teacher, employer, or advisor discussing applicant's intellectual abilities, previous training and experience, and potential for a career in research- **sent directly to program.**

ELIGIBILITY:

- Medical students must be in good standing with their university
- Applicants must be able to conduct research full-time, on campus from **June 1 – July 31**
- Students must **not** be enrolled in coursework, remediation, or clinical rotations during the time
- Students must **not** be receiving funding from another source for summer research
- Students must **not** have any other on-campus employment.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICANTS:
Reviewers will evaluate each applicant's demonstrated scholarship and promise for future achievement in academic medicine. The panel will also consider the appropriateness of the designated project for training in the proposed areas of research, the quality of the training environment, and the mentor's stated plans for training the applicant. The reviewers will evaluate the impact of the research experience and how it would further the applicant's development in his/her career as an academic physician. ***Evaluations by the review committee will be confidential*.**

Contact:
MedStudentResearch@utsouthwestern.edu