

The University of Washington and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Announce the 2016-2017 Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP)



UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON



UW PREP will recruit candidates from underrepresented minority, economically disadvantaged, and physically disabled groups who already hold baccalaureate degrees and wish to optimize their preparation for and successful completion of graduate studies leading to a Ph.D. in the biomedical sciences. The program will provide the following:

- One year Mentored Laboratory Experience
- Graduate School application assistance
- Travel to attend one national conference
- GRE course
- Writing course
- Health and dental benefits
- Tuition Assistance for one course at the UW
- salary \$27,000/year

If interested, please consider the attached information and application packet. Complete and return the application via email with requested secondary materials to:

Dr. Gabriele Varani, Department of Chemistry, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195-1700

For any questions or information, please contact: varani@chem.washington.edu

Applications can also be submitted via our website <https://depts.washington.edu/uwprep/>

University of Washington PREP – Overview

Program Goals

The University of Washington (UW) and its partner Institution, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCR), believe that a diverse group of biomedical researchers is essential for the long-term competitiveness of the United States, and for the identification and resolution of health care disparities. Thus, we are committed to the diversification of the biomedical workforce. As part of this commitment, the UW PREP, supported by the National Institute of Health, will provide laboratory and didactic training to a group of students who have recently graduated from B.S./B.A. granting programs and who wish to optimize their preparation for and successful completion of biomedical doctoral programs (Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.). The program is *not* designed for individuals contemplating a professional degree (M.D., Pharm.D., D.D.S., etc).

Trainee profile

UW PREP scholars will include individuals who are US citizens or hold permanent resident status, and are also members of groups underrepresented in biomedical sciences, including economically disadvantaged students and those with disabilities. The program is aimed at undergraduates who have great potential and enthusiasm for science, yet lack some tangibles (for example research experience) and are therefore less competitive for the most competitive biomedical graduate programs. We especially seek to recruit individuals who have BA/BS degrees in biomedically-relevant sciences, GPAs of at least 3.0 and who lack substantial research experience. Under exceptional circumstances (e.g. evidence of hardship, etc.), we may consider candidates with a lower GPA, but only when the student's commitment to biomedical research is particularly strong and the academic trajectory of the student is positive. PREP scholars must commit to applying to at least five PhD Programs within the completion of the program during the fellowship period. PREP scholars are expected to attend a national conference and to present their research results during the UW

Undergraduate Research Symposium. PREP scholars are also expected to attend weekly seminars in their area of interest in the host institution/department where they effectuate their research.

Financial Support

PREP provides financial support for one year, which includes an annual salary of \$27,000 (plus benefits), tuition assistance for one course, and travel costs to attend one national professional conference.

Program Components

- **Orientation:** Trainees will start the program beginning Summer Quarter, early June 2016. A set of introductory meetings will introduce trainees to the PREP administrators, faculty and staff; to the University of Washington environment, and to each other.
- **Mentored Research:** The main objective of the UW PREP is to involve the trainees in exciting cutting-edge research. To this end, trainees will be placed with a mentor, who can direct different aspects of a cohesive, often interdisciplinary, research project. Students will be assigned to mentors that match their research interests from a pool of participating UW and FHCRC faculty.
- **Individual Development Plan (IDP):** Upon entering the UW PREP, each trainee, under the direction of the Principal Investigator (PI) and the co-investigators, will modify the IDP submitted with their application to establish their strengths and weaknesses and to develop the most effective mentoring, counseling, and academic support needed to gain the core competencies for successful application to biomedical graduate programs.
- **Writing and GRE Coursework:** During the Summer quarter, trainees will attend a writing course developed specifically for the UW PREP and undertake a course to prepare for the GRE. The course is designed to enhance scientific writing skills, with particular emphasis on developing effective style and language usage, clarity, and structure for scientific writing in research papers, abstracts and personal statements needed for graduate school applications. During this course the trainees will develop a personal statement that will be included with their graduate school applications.
- **Academic Coursework:** Trainees will have the opportunity to take one graduate course in an area where additional didactic training is needed.
- **Seminars:** All mentors associated with this program hold weekly informal research meetings, and the trainees will be expected to attend the group meetings of the primary mentor. Individual departments or divisions in which the trainees are placed have their own seminar series and research seminars, presented by prominent visiting faculty as well as pre- and postdoctoral fellows. Trainees are expected to also attend these presentations.

- **Research presentations:** Fellows will present their research in regular group meetings to the other fellows and the PREP faculty and staff, to improve presentational skills and mastery of research subject.
- **Journal Club:** During the Winter and Spring quarters, trainees will take turns as discussion leaders for a weekly Journal Club, self-selecting a current biological theme and critically presenting current manuscripts.
- **Poster Session:** Trainees will present their scientific findings at the annual University of Washington Undergraduate Research Symposium at the end of the PREP year, in May.
- **Scientific Meetings:** Funds will be made available for each trainee to present at or attend a national scientific meeting appropriate to their research and academic interests.
- **Graduate School Application:** All trainees are expected to apply to at least five top-tier graduate programs, including one or more programs at UW; in most cases, applications will be completed by the end of the Fall quarter (Nov). Fellows will receive advice in how to best select a program, in the preparation of CV/resumes, in the preparation of personal statements, and in the preparation for the interviews.

UW PREP PROGRAM APPLICATION MATERIALS June 2016 – May 2017

Postmark DEADLINE: February 1st, 2016

Please complete the UW PREP application and return with the following information, under one mailing. The preferred return method is by e-mail and documents should be sent as PDF's; however, 'regular' mail will also be accepted. Transcripts will be accepted by regular mail as the default method of delivery.

1. **Photocopy of Social Security Card and State Driver's License/State ID or US Passport.** This document will be placed in your file or shredded if you are not accepted into the Program. If you are a **Permanent Resident**, please send pertinent documentation (photocopy of 'green card').
2. **Official Transcript(s)** of all community colleges and colleges/universities you have attended while pursuing your BA/BS degree. If you are graduating in June 2016, we will need proof of your degree attainment and final grades before formal enrollment into the Program. Please do not send unofficial documentation.
3. **Personal Statement** (maximum length: 2-page, 12-size font). Your personal essay must include information regarding:
 - a. Your undergraduate academic and professional preparation, please include names/dates of attendance at all 2- and 4-year institutions
 - b. What you have been doing since receiving your BA/BS
 - c. Reasons for wanting to pursue a biomedical PhD or MD/PhD degree
 - d. Why you believe you meet our eligibility requirement of underrepresentation in the biomedical sciences

- e. Your future educational and career goals
- f. Why you believe the UW PREP Program will assist you in meeting those educational and career goals
- g. What are your reasons for not applying directly to a Ph.D. graduate program

4. Current CV/Resume

- 5. Three Letters of Recommendation** – Please include letters of recommendation:
- a. One (1) laboratory mentor or employer
 - b. One (1) bioscience professor
 - c. One (1) academic advisor

The individuals writing your letters of recommendation must be able to attest to your interest and motivation for entering the UW PREP. You may include the sealed and signed letter with your application file or you may let us know whether the recommender is personally sending the letter to the program via postal service, email or fax. Please note that the Deadline date for letters of recommendation is also February 1st, 2016.