



Initiative to Maximize Student Development

An Undergraduate Biomedical and Behavioral Research Training Program

The VCU Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Program (IMSD) provides research training in the Biomedical and Behavioral sciences for individuals from groups traditionally underrepresented in biomedical research. The IMSD program is designed to prepare students to apply for graduate programs in the Biomedical or Behavioral Sciences (PhD) IMSD Scholars are typically admitted as rising juniors and are involved in program activities through until graduation.

- ◆ Lab Skills “bootcamp”
- ◆ Opportunity to travel to and present at a national scientific conference
- ◆ Upto 2 Full years of Mentored Research!
- ◆ Career development counseling
- 2 x 10 week (40 hr per week) Summer Research Fellowships
- ◆ Community of like-minded peers
- 12 hr per week Semester Mentored Research
- ◆ Local and National Networking

Apply Online by March 25th 2022
www.healthdisparities.vcu.edu
 Tab: “Research Training Programs”



For more information contact: VCU Center On Health Disparities COHDTraining@vcuhealth.org
 Eligible applicants must be current full-time VCU undergraduate students, and must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents or non-citizen nationals.

Program Specifics:

The VCU Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) research training program is hosted by the Center on Health Disparities (CoHD), VCU School of Medicine. IMSD is part of a federal initiative to increase the diversity of the future biomedical and behavioral workforce. Funding for this program comes from National Institute of General Medicine IMSD program <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-09-104.html>.

Applications for 2022 are open now and close on March 25th 2022

Apply online: <http://www.healthdisparities.vcu.edu/Research--Training/Apply-Now/>

Successful applicants must have a strong desire to pursue a PhD in the Biomedical or Behavioral Sciences. Applicants must have at minimum 3 remaining semesters at VCU but are encouraged to apply as early as their freshman year. A GPA over 2.8 in major is preferred. Eligible applicants must be current full-time VCU undergraduate students, and must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents or non-citizen nationals. Proof of citizenship status or resident status will be required. Applicants can be from any Science major (eg. BIOL, BNFO, BME, CHEM, CLSE, PSYCH).

Successful applications will be expected to participate in a 1 week “Molecular lab skills bootcamp” from May 16th-20th to prepare them for their laboratory experiences (COVID rules permitting). Students will receive help with securing a research mentor but are encouraged to start this process before being admitted (this will be seen as a positive!).

There are 4 key elements to our training program:

Intensive summer research program – IMSD scholars must dedicate 40 hours a week for 10 weeks (May 31st – August 5th) in the summer to research. During the summer program scholars participate in an array of enrichment activities such as; seminars (on careers, research, graduate school), Discussions with professors, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows, and other research themed topics. We provide financial support for the IMSD summer research program. Scholars must arrange and pay for their own housing during this time. Scholars can participate in 2 consecutive summers of research via the IMSD program.

A long term mentored research experience – After the initial summer in a research lab, IMSD Scholars are expected to dedicate 10-12 hours of time to research during the semester in addition to their academic commitments. We provide a small amount of financial support for this experience.

Research intensive curriculum – IMSD scholars will receive specialized advising to help select research based classes during your normal academic schedule to compliment the training we provide. We will help you select these within your specific discipline but strongly recommend BIOL392 Introduction to Research, and an honors thesis if possible.

Mentorship and Community - IMSD undergraduate is one of 4 research training programs in the CoHD family. We aim to act as mentors to your future, to help provide the additional support you need to make your dreams become reality. We hope to introduce you to a community of likeminded peers with whom you can form a network. We anticipate the friends and connections you make through IMSD and other CoHD research training programs will last a lifetime. In order to achieve this we require you to attend an array of enrichment activities offered via our research training colloquium (~3 hours a month). These meetings are typically 3-5 pm of Friday afternoons; we request that you schedule your classes/work around this time to maximize your ability to participate. Scholars are required to attend 75% of IMSD events.

We look forward to receiving your applications! Please email cohtraining@vcuhealth.org with any questions.