

**VCU**School of Medicine
Center on Health Disparities

MAXIMIZING ACCESS TO RESEARCH CAREERS



An Undergraduate Biomedical and Behavioral Research Training Program

Program Specifics:

The VCU Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) research training program is hosted by the Center on Health Disparities (CoHD), VCU School of Medicine. MARC 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

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-147.html>

Applications for 2024 are open now and close on March 25th 2024

Apply online now! <https://artes.som.vcu.edu>

Successful applicants must have a strong desire to pursue a PhD in the Biomedical or Behavioral Sciences. Applicants must have 4 remaining semesters at VCU. A GPA over 3.0 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, KHS).

Successful applications will be expected to participate in a 1 week “Molecular lab skills bootcamp” from May 15th-19th to prepare them for their laboratory experiences. 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 – MARC scholars must dedicate 40 hours a week for 10 weeks (June 3rd – August 12th) 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 MARC 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 MARC program with the option in the second summer to study at another US University.

cohtraining@vcuhealth.orgwww.healthdisparities.vcu.edu

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A long term mentored research experience – After the initial summer in a research lab, MARC Scholars are expected to dedicate 10-12 hours of time to research during the semester in addition to their academic commitments.

Research intensive curriculum – MARC 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 - MARC 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 MARC 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 MARC events.

Financial Support - MARC Scholars will receive an annual stipend of \$14,340 and 60% of VCU tuition. MARC scholars will also be given financial support to travel to at least 1 research conference per year.

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