

Frequently Asked Questions for the CHORI Summer Student Application

Who is eligible to apply?

- Students in good standing (typically 3.0 or better GPA) with an interest in the health sciences
- High school students in their junior or senior year, with at least one completed year in math and biology **OR** Undergraduate students currently enrolled in an undergraduate program
- Students considered Under-Represented in the sciences as defined below (page 4)
- Students must be citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States, or must have been lawfully admitted for permanent residency (i.e., in possession of the Alien Registration Receipt Card I-551 or I-151) at the time of application. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible

Eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria above. Those not eligible to apply for a stipend according to these criteria can choose to apply as a volunteer

How do I apply?

Students interested in the CHORI Student Research Internships should submit the CHORI application and other required documents by the application deadline. Applications may be submitted online or by mail. See details provided below.

What is required as part of my application?

1. Completed application form (either mailed or online)
2. Official School Transcript
3. Personal Essay: 500 words or less that addresses the following topics:
 - Why are you interested in this program?
 - Why are you interested in research, clinical medicine and/or science?
 - If you are applying to the CIRM program in particular, what makes you interested in stem cell research?
 - What are your interests, motivations, aspirations...?
 - What would you like to gain from the program?
 - Community and/or outreach activities you have participated in and/or organized independently or with any other organization.
 - What makes you unique from other students who maybe applying to the program?
4. Two letters of recommendation are required. One letter must come from a teacher, the other may come from a counselor, research mentor, coach or other school official. They should address the applicant's educational achievements and potential to succeed. The letters of recommendation may be sent with the application in a sealed envelope or separately; however, no application will be considered until all items are received. All letters must be signed and written on school letterhead.
5. Resume

All elements of application are due by application deadline including letters of recommendation. All forms and documents must be PDF or WORD format only.

When is the application due?

See website for deadlines each Fall

http://www.chori.org/Education/Summer_Internship_Program/summer_research_home.html

Can I submit the application anytime?

Yes, you may complete the application at anytime; however, the applications will not be reviewed by the committee until the deadline.

How do I submit an application?

Step 1. Download a copy of the application from the following website:

www.chori.org/summerstudentprogram.org <OR>

you may submit your application online through the following website:

<https://healthpipeline.wufoo.com/forms/chori/>

Step 2. Complete the application and mail it (or send it) in with all required documents

Step 3. If you submit your application through the mail, send it to the following address:

Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute
Attn: CHORI Summer Student Program
5700 Martin Luther King Jr Way
Oakland, CA 94609
(510) 450-7674

Step 4. Be sure your (2) letters of recommendation are also mailed to the address above

Applications are not complete until all documents are received. All forms and documents must be PDF or WORD format only.

How are applicants selected?

A selection committee will meet and review all applications that meet the eligibility requirements. The criteria for selection of awardees will include qualification, potential, enthusiasm, career goals and ability (demonstrated by courses taken, grades, and letters of recommendation), and contents of the applicant's essay.

When do I hear if I was selected?

High school students will be informed about the status of their application by the first week of March.
Undergraduate students will be informed about the status of their application by the mid March.

How long is the program?

The undergraduate student program is 9 weeks, typically from the second week of June through the second week of August, exact dates each summer vary and will be posted on the summer student website as well as be

emailed to students upon acceptance into the program. Some of students who participate in the High School program will have orientation in April, and may begin obtaining approvals for research; however, research begins full time in June.

Is housing provided during the program?

No, housing for students is not provided on site during the program. However, for undergraduate students supported by the NIH fellowship, there is a small allocation for out of state students to assist with housing and/or travel.

Is a stipend provided during the program?

Yes all selected eligible students will receive a stipend during their participation. Stipends vary by student type and granting agency. Once selected, these details will be sent to you by email, and you will have the opportunity to either accept or reject the program offer.

Who funds the program?

The program is currently funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. Funding is also received through anonymous donors.

What happens if I am selected?

You will receive an offer of acceptance into the program by email from the program administrator. You will have one week to accept the offer. Upon acceptance you will receive an enrollment packet. For official enrollment into the program to occur, all materials must be completed and received by the deadlines provided or the student will lose their spot.

Are there age limitations for the program?

Students must be 16 years of age or older to work at the Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute. There is no upper age limit.

What is the definition of a high school student?

Any student who is currently enrolled in a high school program at the time of the CHORI application.

What is the definition of an undergraduate student?

Any student enrolled in an undergraduate program at the time the CHORI application is submitted.

How is an 'under-represented student' defined?

Under-representation is defined by the National Science Foundation as a student who falls into at least one of the categories below. Please review carefully.

1. Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be under-represented in the health-related sciences on a national basis.

- a. **African-American/Black** (all persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa. This definition includes Native-born Black Americans, West Indians, Africans, and Haitians).
- b. **Hispanic/Latino** (refers to people born in North, Central, and South America, and in the Caribbean whose language is Spanish. This definition excludes people born in Europe whose language is Spanish or Portuguese, and people born in Brazil, French Guyana, British Guyana, and Dutch Guyana although they are part of South America. The groups of highest priority are: Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans).
- c. **Native American** (all persons having origins in any of the cultural people of North America, and who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition. Native Americans include: American Indians, Alaska Eskimos (Inuits), Aleuts, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islander (Refers to a person having origin in any of the peoples of the Pacific Islands. They include: Guamanians, Samoans, Fijians, Polynesians, Tongans, Micronesians, Tahitians, Marshallese, and Melanesians.)

OR

2. Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment and/or chronic illness that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

OR

3. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who are defined as:

- a. Individuals who come from a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds. These thresholds are based on family size, published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census; adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index; and adjusted for use in all health professions programs. These income levels are published at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>.

OR

- b. Individuals who come from a social, cultural, or educational environment such as that found in certain rural or inner-city environments that have demonstrably and recently directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career.

If I have other questions about the application process, who do I contact?

Email: summerstudentprogram@chori.org