CHORI Summer Student Research Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply?

• 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 in good academic standing (typically 3.0 or better GPA) with an interest in the health sciences
• Students with background considered under-represented in the sciences as defined below (page 3)
• 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 for acceptance into the program and receiving a stipend. Students who do not match the requirements may still apply as a volunteer. The number of volunteer positions depends on number of eligible students and mentor availability.

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. School Transcript (unofficial copy is acceptable, but must be legible)
3. Personal Essay: 500 words or less that addresses the following topics:
   • The reasons why you want to participate in the CHORI Student Research Program
   • The goals you hope to achieve through this program
   • Why you believe you should be chosen as a candidate for our program
   • Community and/or outreach activities you have participated in
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, potential to succeed in the sciences, and why this student stands out from others. The letters of recommendation may be sent with the application in a sealed envelope or separately. All letters must be signed and written on school or official institution letterhead. See website for Reference Letter Criteria
5. Resume (limit to 2 pages)

Applications are not complete until all documents are received.
When is the application due?
   See website for deadline, updated each fall for the following summer.
   http://www.chori.org/Education/Summer_Internship_Program/funded_unfunded.html

When do I submit the application?

   You may complete the application at any time between November and the due date; however, the applications will not be reviewed by the selection committee until the deadline.

How do I submit an application?

Step 1. Download a hardcopy copy or find the link to the online application for the summer student program at www.chori.org/ssrp

Step 2. Complete the application and mail it in with all required documents as .pdf or .doc/docx

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 Research 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.

How are applicants selected?

A selection committee will review all applications that meet the eligibility requirements. The criteria for selection of awardees will include qualification, potential, enthusiasm, career goals, and contents of the applicant’s essay. The committee will take into account the courses taken, grades, and letters of recommendation.

When do I hear if I was selected?

Students will be informed about the status of their application by the end of 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 of the program vary and will be posted on the summer student program website as well as emailed to the students upon acceptance to the program.
How is an ‘under-represented student’ defined?

Under-representation is defined by our CHORI program and 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**: all people having origins in North, Central, and South America, or in the Caribbean, Cuba, or Puerto Rico 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.
   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 may include American Indians, Alaska Eskimos (Inuits), and Aleuts.
   d. **Pacific Islander**: all persons having origins in the Pacific Islands. These include Guamanians, Samoans, Fijians, Polynesians, Tongans, Micronesians, Tahitians, Marshallieses, Melanesians and Hawaiians.
   e. **Middle Eastern**: all persons having origins in specific Middle Eastern countries, including Algeria, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Palestine, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen.

OR

2. **Individuals with disabilities**, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Some examples include but are not limited to sickle cell disease, thalassemia, cystic fibrosis, Type I diabetes, cerebral palsy, and autism.

OR

3. Individuals who reside in families who are low income (defined by at least one of the 3 below):
   a. Family with an annual gross income less than 130% of poverty level. 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](http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml)
   b. High school students who are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch (Documentation of eligibility required).
   c. College age students who qualify for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) (Documentation of FAFSA eligibility required)

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, the stipend details will be sent to you by e-mail, and you will have the opportunity to review the program offer for final acceptance.

Is housing provided during the program?

No, housing for students is not provided on site during the program. Undergraduate students supported by the NIH fellowship whose permanent residence is outside the Bay Area, may receive additional support for housing and/or travel.
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 e-mail from the program administrator. You will have one week to accept the offer. Upon acceptance, you will receive an enrollment packet by E-mail. For official enrollment into the program to occur, your materials must be completed and received by the deadlines provided, or you may lose your program spot.

Are there age limitations for the program?

Students must be 16 years of age or older by mid-June to participate in the program. There is no maximum age limit.

What is the definition of a high school student?

Any student enrolled in a high school program at the time the CHORI application is submitted.

What is the definition of an undergraduate student?

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

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

Email: ssrp@chori.org