



## 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 a min. GPA of 3.0) with an interest in the health sciences
- Students with background considered under-represented in the sciences as defined below (page 3)

*Note: Applicants must meet all of the criteria above are eligible to receive a stipend. Students who do not match the requirements may still apply as a volunteer. The number of volunteer positions depends on mentor availability.*

### Is U.S. citizenship a requirement?

Students must be citizens or non-citizen nationals of the United States, or must have been lawfully admitted for permanent residency (such as in possession of the Alien Registration Receipt Card I-551 or I-151) at the time of application to be eligible for most SSRP training program stipends. DACA students are not eligible for stipends from **federally funded** training programs.

### How do I apply?

Students interested in the CHORI Summer Student Research Program Internships should submit an application and other required documents by the listed 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
2. School Transcript (unofficial copy is acceptable, but must be legible)
3. Personal Essay: 500 words or less that addresses the following questions:
  - Why you want to participate in the CHORI Summer Student Research Program?
  - What do you hope to achieve through this program?
  - Why you believe you should be chosen as a candidate for our program?
  - What community and/or outreach activities you have participated in?
4. Two letters of recommendation are requested. One letter should come from a teacher or other official who can comment on your academic goals and achievements. The second letter may come from a counselor, mentor, coach or other who can comment on your personal goals and achievements. Letters of recommendation should be sent separately from the application. All letters must be signed and written on school or official institution letterhead. *See website for Reference Letter Criteria*
5. Resume

***Applications are not complete until all documents are received***

## When is the application due?

See website for deadlines, updated each fall for the following summer.

[http://www.chori.org/Education/Summer\\_Internship\\_Program/funded\\_unfunded.html](http://www.chori.org/Education/Summer_Internship_Program/funded_unfunded.html)

## When do I submit the application?

You may submit a complete application at any time between November 1<sup>st</sup> and the due date. Late submissions will not be reviewed. Applications are reviewed as a group after the submission 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](http://www.chori.org/ssrp)

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

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

Attn: Admissions

CHORI Summer Student Research Program

UCSF MLK Building, Room 1105F

5700 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, CA 94609

Step 4: Be sure your (2) letters of recommendation are mailed to the address above or E-mailed directly to: [ssrp@ucsf.edu](mailto:ssrp@ucsf.edu). ***Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.***

## 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, aptitude, enthusiasm for science, career goals, and potential for student to benefit from the program. The committee will take into account all elements of the application including: the personal statement, barriers to academic success or participation, resume, courses taken, grades, and letters of recommendation.

## When do I hear if I was selected?

Students will be informed regarding status of their application by E-mail at the end of March. Be sure to check your E-mail regularly during this time, including your Junk mail to not miss the notification.

## Can I choose my research mentor?

Mentors are carefully chosen for our CHORI SSRP interns each summer by the SSRP leadership team. Students may submit preferences for mentors who typically participate in our program by visiting the CHORI SSRP website and downloading the 'Faculty Biography' page. Students may list their top 3 choices on the application. These will be considered along with the students' research interest (from the personal essay), mentor's research focus, and lab/clinic availability.

## How long is the program?

The training 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 [www.chori.org/ssrp](http://www.chori.org/ssrp) and E-mailed to students upon acceptance to the program.

## How is an 'under-represented student' in STEM defined?

Under-representation is defined by our CHORI SSRP program and the National Science Foundation as a student who falls into at least one of the 4 categories below. ***Note that documentation may be required for some of the categories selected.***

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/Alaska Natives:** 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. **Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islander:** all persons having origins in the Pacific Islands. These include Guamanians, Samoans, Fijians, Polynesians, Tongans, Micronesians, Tahitians, Marshallese, 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.

*Note: NIH uses the federal Office of Management and Budget's definitions of these racial and ethnic groups. NIH also recognizes that underrepresentation can vary from setting to setting, and urges grantee institutions to encourage individuals from racial or ethnic groups that can be demonstrated convincingly to be underrepresented to participate in NIH programs to enhance diversity.*

**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 are **first in their generation** to attend college: have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree

**OR**

4. Individuals who reside in families **who are low income** (defined by at least one criteria 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>
  - b. High school students who are eligible to receive free or reduced lunch.
  - c. College age students who qualify for Federal Pell grants and/or FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
  - d. Were or currently are homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
  - e. Were or currently are in the foster care system, as defined by the Administration for Children and Families
  - f. Grew up in a.) a U.S. rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) or b.) Centers for Medicine and Medicaid Services- designated Low-income and Health Professional Shortage Area

### **Is a stipend provided during the program?**

Yes, all selected eligible students will receive a stipend during their participation. Summer stipends range from \$2500–\$4000, varying by student status and granting agency. Once a student is selected, stipend details will be sent by email, and students will have the opportunity to review the program offer for final acceptance.

**Is housing provided during the program?**

No, housing is not provided on site during the program.

**Who funds the program?**

The program is currently funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and 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 by email. For official enrollment into the program to occur, your materials must be completed and received by the deadlines provided, or you may lose your spot in the Program.

**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 SSRP application is submitted.

**What is the definition of an undergraduate student?**

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

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

Please E-mail program organizers at: [ssrp@ucsf.edu](mailto:ssrp@ucsf.edu)