Health Careers Opportunity Program

The primary goal of UC Berkeley’s HCOP Program is to increase diversity in public health professions by providing critical activities and resources to students who have been economically, socially or educationally disadvantaged in their pursuit of higher learning or are under-represented in the health professions.
OVERVIEW

Found under the umbrella of the San Francisco Bay Area Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), the primary goal of UC Berkeley’s HCOP Program is to increase diversity in public health professions by providing critical activities and resources to students who have been economically or educationally disadvantaged in their pursuit of higher learning or are under-represented in the health professions.

HCOP programs are designed to reduce the barriers that often hinder students from gaining entry into graduate school such as a lack of advising, mentorship, research experience and low GRE test scores. Specifically, the UC Berkeley HCOP Summer Research Program was designed to facilitate the successful entry of students into graduate school and ultimately the public health career of their choice by tackling such barriers.

The UC Berkeley HCOP Summer Research Program will provide undergraduate students (HCOP Scholars), internship placements with faculty and career mentors who are leaders in their respective areas of Public Health. This intensive 8-week program (June 8, 2015-August 3, 2015) will engage students in the following objectives:

1. Introductory biostatistics and analytical concepts in Public Health research.
2. Developing the necessary skills to create a research question and proposal.
3. Acquire key skills needed to write a professional op-ed or letter to the editor on a relevant Public Health topic.
4. Oral presentation and networking skills.
5. Becoming familiarized with the SOPHAS and UC Berkeley graduate application process.

Additionally, students will be provided with free GRE Preparation, academic planning workshops, professional guest speaker panels, career and graduate education advising and more.

Summer research interns will be selected based on their educational background, commitment to Public Health service and underserved communities.

ELIGIBILITY

Selected Summer Research Scholars must meet all of the following eligibility requirements by the time of the application deadline:

a) enrolled full time as a UC Berkeley undergraduate student
b) are sophomores (who have completed at least 3 semesters or 4 quarters of college coursework, juniors or seniors

c) have a 2.8 or better GPA
d) live or have housing in the SF Bay Area for Summer 2015
e) must show a specified interest in and potential for a successful career in Public Health; special consideration will be given to students who have continued their pursuit of graduate education in Public Health despite having faced personal obstacles including but not limited to educational, economic and social challenges.

FINANCIAL AWARDS
Summer Scholars will be awarded a $3,000 stipend as well as a GRE Kaplan course (valued at $1500) at a very discounted price of $100. Please note that housing is NOT provided and students selected must already have or secure summer accommodations in the San Francisco Bay Area prior to the start of the program.

**APPLICATION MATERIALS AND PROCEDURES**

Completed applications include the following:

a) ****[Online Student Application](#) form filled out completely

b) Resume

c) Personal Statement

d) Unofficial Transcripts (including current schedule of classes)

e) List of references (faculty/GSI, employer, supervisor, advisor or mentor) that can speak strongly about your academic abilities.

****Note all materials should be submitted online via the [Online Student Application](#). See below for the personal statement essay prompt that you will be expected to complete online.

**For Student Applicant:**

**Student Personal Statement**

Please state your purpose in applying to the HCOP Summer Research Program in a 1,000 words or less. In this personal statement, we are seeking to capture not only a snapshot of where you are currently as a student, but where you have been and where you see yourself in the future as a Public Health/Healthcare professional. Relevant factors include but are not limited to the following: 1) Achievements you have accomplished in spite of educational, social and economic challenges 2) What in your personal, work or academic background has motivated you to pursue graduate education and/or a career in public health 3) What are your eventual career goals in the public health professions 4) What kind of mentoring/research experience and skillset do you expect to gain this summer that will best assist you in reaching your career goals and dreams?

All applications must be received electronically by **Tuesday, March 17, 2015 by 5 pm PST. There will be no extensions to the deadline for any reason.**

Good Luck and we look forward to reviewing your application!

If you have any questions, please reach out to the HCOP Program Manager whose contact information can be found below.

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HCOP Program Manager