THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO is located seven miles south of the city center in the community of Hyde Park/Kenwood. The campus is bordered by two major parks and Lake Michigan. The University of Chicago campus consists of stately gothic buildings and new scientific research buildings furnished with the latest scientific facilities.

THE CITY OF CHICAGO offers endless activities for entertainment and leisure including restaurants, sporting events, cultural events, and shopping for all tastes and budgets. Many students, staff and faculty live in the neighborhood of Hyde Park where the University of Chicago is located, and walk to campus or use frequent free shuttle service.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PREP has been funded continuously by NIH since 2004, and has an excellent record of training successful scientists. Over 30 UChicago PREP alums have now graduated with their PhD, with more finishing graduate school each year, and advancing to postdoctoral and faculty appointments and other scientific careers. Please visit our website for more information about our alums and other PREP news: http://bsdprep.uchicago.edu

SPECIFIC INQUIRIES about the Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) may be addressed to:

Nancy B. Schwartz, Ph.D.
Director, PREP

Miriam Domowicz, Ph.D.
Co-Director
or
Laurie Risner, Ph.D.
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Find more information on our website:
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In keeping with its long-standing tradition and policies, the University of Chicago, in admissions, employment, and access to programs, considers students and employees on the basis of individual merit without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national or ethnic origin, handicap, or other factors irrelevant to work or study in the programs of the University.

Supported by
The National Institute of General Medical Sciences
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PREP (Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program) is designed to provide mentoring, research skills, coursework and a positive learning environment to recent post-baccalaureate students, who intend to pursue a PhD degree in biomedical science. This program is a unique opportunity in particular for students belonging to groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences to strengthen their applications to PhD Programs nation-wide. By conducting research as laboratory technicians for one year at the University of Chicago and by participating in diverse academic activities our PREP program prepares Scholars to be successful graduate students.

THE PREP SCHOLARS PROGRAM is designed to offer specific academic, cultural and social activities. Some of these activities will be completed in one academic quarter (10-12 weeks) and others will continue throughout the academic year. Scholars may also take an academic graduate course each quarter. Throughout the year, Scholars attend workshops, meetings, and cultural events with other PREP Scholars, and are encouraged to attend seminars, research meetings, and a scientific conference with their lab group.

PREP WORKSHOPS cover preparation for the graduate school application: the admissions process, application procedure, institution selection, personal statement development, and interviewing skills. Other workshops cover preparing an individual development plan (IDP), oral presentation skills, dealing with implicit bias, and navigating graduate school, among other topics.

PREP ACTIVITIES include a lab techniques bootcamp, orientation, lab rotations to choose a mentor (if necessary), self-assessments, a series of GRE workshops, laboratory research, travel to a national conference, graduate courses, and the weekly PREP Journal Club. Scholars also take a writing course and an ethics course, interview for graduate school, and present their research at a final PREP Symposium in June.

PREP SCHOLARS have access to a variety of professional development opportunities at the University of Chicago, including myCHOICE career seminars, a UChicago SACNAS chapter with a local Symposium, and an annual Midwest Regional PREP/IMSD Research Symposium. PREP Scholars interact with IMSD graduate students throughout the year, including those involved in the Graduate Recruitment Initiative Team (GRIT). GRIT is committed to enhancing diversity, inclusion, and equity across the graduate school, and offers events throughout the year aimed at increasing community, support, and networks for students from marginalized backgrounds.

ALL PREP SCHOLARS receive a salary of $29,000/year for their work as lab technicians, as well as employee benefits such as health insurance, free computer courses, and personal and professional counseling.

FACULTY MENTORS from a wide variety of research fields in biomedical and behavioral sciences participate in this Program. While the research projects are frequently basic science in nature, Scholars are encouraged to pursue research in areas that address reducing health disparities.