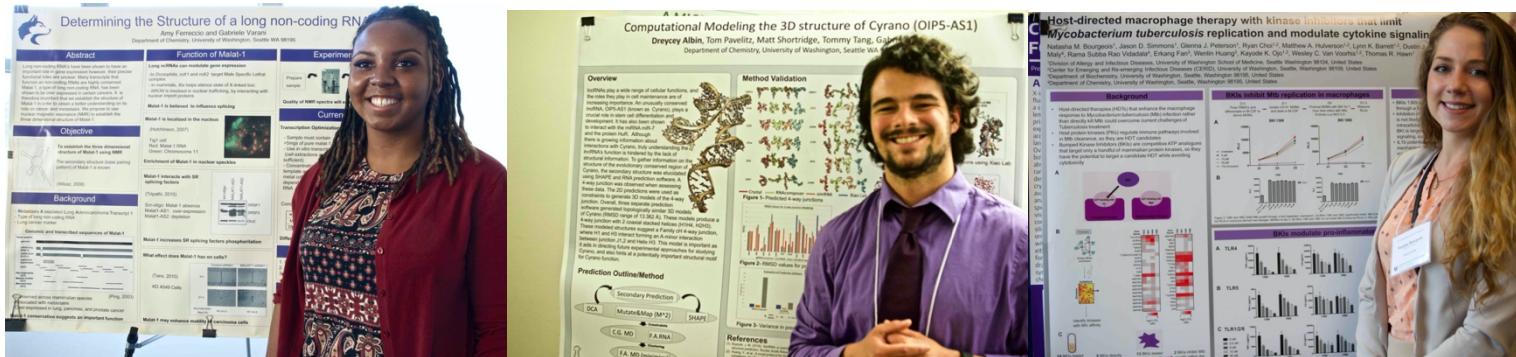


University of Washington

Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP)



UW PREP will recruit candidates from groups historically underrepresented in the sciences, including underrepresented minorities and disabled groups, who already hold baccalaureate degrees and wish to optimize their preparation for and successful completion of graduate studies leading to a Ph.D. in the biomedical sciences. The program will provide the following:

- One-year long mentored laboratory experience
- Graduate school application assistance
- Travel to attend one national conference
- GRE preparation course
- Writing course
- Health and dental benefits
- Tuition assistance for one course at the UW
- Salary of approx. \$30,000/year



If interested, please consider the information and application packet at the website

<https://depts.washington.edu/uwprep/>

Complete and return the application via email with requested secondary materials to
uwprep@uw.edu

For any questions or information, please contact:

Dr. Gabriele Varani, Department of Chemistry, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195-1700
varani@uw.edu

University of Washington PREP – Overview

Program Goals

The University of Washington (UW) believes that a diverse group of biomedical researchers is essential for the long-term competitiveness of the United States, and for the identification and resolution of health care disparities. Thus, the entire UW community is committed to the diversification of the biomedical workforce in Seattle and beyond. As part of this commitment, the UW PREP, supported by the National Institute of Health and by the UW, will provide laboratory and didactic training to a group of students who have recently graduated from B.S./B.A. granting programs and who wish to optimize their preparation for and successful completion of biomedical doctoral programs (Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D.). Support is not provided by decision of the funders for students who wish to pursue a professional degree; therefore, the program is *not* designed for individuals contemplating a professional degree (M.D., Pharm.D., D.D.S., etc).

Trainee profile

UW PREP scholars will include individuals who are US citizens or hold permanent resident status and are also members of groups underrepresented in biomedical sciences, including those with disabilities. The program is aimed at undergraduates who have great potential and enthusiasm for science yet lack some tangibles (for example research experience) and are therefore less competitive for the most competitive biomedical graduate programs. We especially seek to recruit individuals who have BA/BS degrees in biomedically-relevant sciences, GPAs of at least 3.0 and who lack substantial research experience. Under exceptional circumstances (e.g. evidence of hardship, illness, etc.), we may consider candidates with a lower GPA, but only when the student's commitment to biomedical research is particularly strong and the academic trajectory of the student is positive. PREP scholars must commit to applying to at least five PhD Programs within the completion of the program during the fellowship period. They are expected to attend a national conference, to present their research results during the UW Undergraduate Research Symposium and to attend weekly seminars in their area of interest in the host institution/department where they effectuate their research.

Financial Support

PREP provides financial support for one year, which includes an annual salary of approximately \$30,000 (plus benefits), tuition assistance for one course, and travel costs to attend one national scientific conference.

Program Components

- **Orientation:** Trainees will start the program beginning Summer Quarter, mid-June. A set of introductory meetings will introduce trainees to the PREP administrators, faculty and staff; to the University of Washington environment, and to each other. Students will meet with potential mentors to finalize mentoring arrangements, complete biomedical ethical course requirements and various safety training requirements.
- **Mentored Research:** The main objective of the UW PREP is to involve the trainees in exciting cutting-edge research. To this end, trainees will be placed with a mentor, chosen by them in consultation with PREP staff, who can direct different aspects of a cohesive, often interdisciplinary, research project. Students will be assigned to mentors that match their research interests from a pool of participating UW and FHCRC faculty.
- **Individual Development Plan (IDP):** Upon entering the UW PREP, each trainee, under the direction of the Principal Investigator (PI) and the co-investigators, will modify the IDP submitted with their application to establish their strengths and weaknesses and to develop the most effective mentoring, counseling, and academic support program needed to gain the core competencies for successful application to biomedical graduate programs.
- **Writing and GRE Coursework:** During the Summer and Fall quarters, trainees will attend a writing course developed specifically for the UW PREP and undertake a course to prepare for the GRE. The course is designed to enhance scientific writing skills, with particular emphasis on developing effective style and language usage, clarity, and structure for scientific writing in research papers, abstracts and personal statements needed for graduate school applications. During this course the trainees will develop a personal statement that will be included with their graduate school applications.
- **Academic Coursework:** Trainees will have the opportunity to take one graduate course in an area where additional didactic training is needed.
- **Seminars:** All mentors associated with this program hold weekly informal research meetings, and the trainees will be expected to attend the group meetings of the primary mentor. Individual departments or divisions in which the trainees are placed have their own seminar series and research seminars, presented by prominent visiting faculty as well as pre- and postdoctoral fellows. Trainees are expected to also attend these presentations.
- **Research presentations:** Fellows will present their research in regular group meetings, at least twice a year, to the other fellows and the PREP faculty and staff, to improve presentational skills and mastery of research subject.
- **Journal Club:** During the Winter and Spring quarters, trainees will take turns as discussion leaders for a weekly Journal Club, self-selecting a current biological theme and critically presenting current manuscripts.
- **Poster Session:** Trainees will present their scientific findings at the annual University of Washington Undergraduate Research Symposium at the end of the PREP year, in May.
- **Scientific Meetings:** Funds will be made available for each trainee to present at and attend a national scientific meeting appropriate to their research and academic interests.
- **Graduate School Application:** All trainees are expected to apply to at least five top-tier graduate programs. In most cases,

applications will be completed by the end of the Fall quarter (Dec). Fellows will receive advice in how to best select a program, in the preparation of CV/resumes, in the preparation of personal statements, and in the preparation for the interviews (through mock interviews with PREP staff).

UW PREP PROGRAM APPLICATION MATERIALS

Program for late June to following May

Posting DEADLINE: February 1st

Please complete the UW PREP application and return with the following information, under one e.mail. The preferred return method is by e-mail and documents should be sent as PDF's; 'regular' mail will also be accepted but is not recommended.

1. **Fully completed application** (Available at <https://depts.washington.edu/uwprep/application/>)
2. **Unofficial Transcript(s)** of all community colleges and colleges/universities you have attended while pursuing your BA/BS degree. Official transcripts will be requested prior to formal enrollment into the program.
3. **Personal Statement** (maximum length: 2-page, 12-size font). Your personal essay must include information regarding:
 - a. Your undergraduate academic and professional preparation, please include names/dates of attendance at all 2- and 4-year institutions
 - b. What you have been doing since receiving your BA/BS
 - c. Reasons for wanting to pursue a biomedical PhD or MD/PhD degree
 - d. Why you believe you meet our eligibility requirement of underrepresentation in the biomedical sciences
 - e. Your future educational and career goals
 - f. Why you believe the UW PREP Program will assist you in meeting those educational and career goals
 - g. What are your reasons for not applying directly to a Ph.D. graduate program
4. **Current CV/Resume**
5. **Three Letters of Recommendation** – Please include letters of recommendation from (if at all possible):
 - a. One (1) laboratory mentor or employer
 - b. One (1) bioscience professor
 - c. One (1) academic advisor

The individuals writing your letters of recommendation must be able to attest to your interest and motivation for entering the UW PREP. You may include the sealed and signed letter with your application file or you may let us know whether the recommender is personally sending the letter to the program via postal service, email or fax. Please note that the Deadline date for letters of recommendation is also February 1st. Authors should e-mail as a PDF with institution affiliation directly to uwprep@uw.edu

Candidates selected to participate in the program will also be asked to provide the following:

6. **Photocopy of Social Security Card and State Driver's License/State ID or US Passport.** If you are a **Permanent Resident**, please send pertinent documentation (photocopy of 'green card').
7. **Official Transcript(s)** of all community colleges and colleges/universities you have attended while pursuing your BA/BS degree. If you are graduating in June 2021, we will need proof of your degree attainment and final grades before formal enrollment into the Program.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP)
APPLICATION

(Example only. Download application at <https://depts.washington.edu/uwprep/application/>)

PERSONAL:

Name: _____ Social Security Number (last four digits): XXX-XX-_____

Current Mailing Address: _____ E-Mail: _____

Permanent Mailing Address: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian/other Emergency Contact: _____

Phone Number Parent/Guardian/other Emergency Contact: _____

Date of Birth: (year only) _____ Gender: _____

Country of birth: _____

Country of citizenship: _____

Are you a Permanent US resident: ____ Yes ____ No (If yes, please be prepared to send requested documentation)

Are you a legal resident of Washington State: ____ Yes ____ No

What is your ethnic/racial origin: _____

ACADEMIC:

Name of College or University you received your BA/BS: _____ Month/Year: _____

Name of 2- and 4-year Colleges/Universities Attended in past 8 years

College/University	Year(s) Attended	Degree(s) Attained	Major	Cumulative GPA	Reason for Leaving

If you have ever been enrolled at the University of Washington (UW) - Student Number: _____ Year(s): _____

Have you ever applied to a UW Biomedical Graduate PhD Program: ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, please provide the Department: _____ Year _____

Department: _____ Year _____

Department: _____ Year _____

Have you ever applied to a Professional Degree Program in the Health Sciences (MD, PharmD, DDS, nursing, etc.): ___ Yes ___ No

Area: _____ Year _____

Area: _____ Year _____

Area: _____ Year _____

Area: _____ Year _____

Have you taken the Graduate Record Exam: ___ Yes ___ No Scores: _____

Have you taken the MCAT: ___ Yes ___ No Scores: _____

Name and Phone Number of the three (3) individuals you have requested to send letters of recommendation

Name	Professional Title	Work Phone	E-Mail

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

What are your areas of research interest (please list 3):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

From the Mentors listed at the UW PREP website, list 2-3 with whom you would like to work, in order of preference. Please notice that this preference is not final and simply provides a starting point for trainee placement.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Final Question for the Application: In 4 – 5 sentences, please state what are your goals for the next 5 years; be as specific as possible.

I attest that all information provided in this application is true.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____