

Program description details

Fellows will join the program each year around July 1; they will complete enrollment activities and all safety requirements and, soon after the July 4 Holiday, will begin working in the mentor's laboratory.

- *Orientation:*

Trainees will start the program beginning Summer Quarter, in late June of each year. 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.
- *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, who can direct different aspects of a cohesive, often interdisciplinary, research project. Students will select mentors that match their research interests from a pool of participating UW and FHCRC faculty.
- *Individual Development Plan (IDP):*

Upon entering the UW PREP Program, each trainee, under the direction of the Principal Investigator (PI) and the co-investigators, will complete an IDP to establish her/his strengths and weaknesses and develop the most effective mentoring, counseling, and academic support needed to gain the core competencies for successful completion of the doctorate.
- *Writing Coursework:* During the Fall quarter, trainees will attend a writing course developed specifically for the UW PREP Program. The course is designed to enhance scientific writing skills, with particular emphasis on developing effective style and language usage, clarity, and structure in scientific writing in research papers, abstracts, and applications.
- *Academic Coursework:*

Trainees will have the opportunity to take one graduate course (or upper-level undergraduate course) in areas where additional didactic training is needed. The UW will waive tuition requirements.

- *Seminars and research presentations:*
All mentors associated with this program hold weekly informal research/lab 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 hosted will have their own seminar series and research seminars, presented by prominent visiting faculty as well as pre- and postdoctoral fellows. Trainees will attend these presentations too.
- *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. In addition, fellows will also attend a Symposium held on or around June 15 at the Fred Hutch for their own post-bac program, which will bring together former and new participants to the programs. New UW PREP fellows will be informed of this event and invited to participate as well.
- *Scientific Meetings:*
Funds will be made available for each trainee to present at, or attend, a national scientific meeting appropriate to their research and academic interests (e.g. American Society for Microbiology, Biophysical Society).
- *Graduate School Application:*
All trainees are expected to apply to at least five top-tier graduate programs, including one or more programs at UW; in most cases, applications will be completed by the end of the Fall quarter. Meetings will be held with the PI and/or second mentor, before graduate school application deadlines, to ensure that all the application documents are ready.
- *Individual meetings with PREP leadership:*
Fellows will meet Individually (monthly) with the PI and/or second mentor to evaluate their progress and discuss concerns, orientation, graduate

programs, etc. In addition, there will be bi-weekly research presentations where fellows will present their research activities in group meetings in front of their PREP colleagues and members of the Leadership Committee.

- *Graduate School Application:*

All trainees are expected to apply to at least five top-tier graduate programs, including one or more programs at UW; in most cases, applications will be completed by the end of the Fall quarter. Meetings will be held with the PI and/or second mentor, before graduate school application deadlines, to ensure that all the application documents are ready.

- *Yearly retreat:*

UW PREP fellows and members of the Leadership Committee will meet once a year at the end of June for a 1-2 day retreat, along with all former fellows enrolled as graduate students at the UW. The retreat occurs in locations that provide an environment conducive to informal interactions, such as the marine laboratory of the UW in the San Juan Island. One prominent scientist who is either of URM background, and/or has a strong reputation for Academic work on diversity, and nominated by the UW PREP fellows, will also attend.

- *Social events and networking opportunities:*

Social events are scheduled periodically during the first few weeks to connect the fellows to the program staff, each other and to existing URM social groups, clubs, and associations, which host many activities, to which fellows are invited.

- *Training in Responsible conduct of research:*

During the summer, fellows will be required to participate in responsible conduct of research training. Each PREP fellow will be required to attend at least 5 lectures and faculty-led discussion groups presented through the Biomedical Research Integrity ([BRI](#)) Series.

- *Training in methods for enhancing rigor and reproducibility:*

Fellows will attend the Rigor, Reproducibility, and Transparency [seminar](#) series held by the Fred Hutch.

- *Preparation of an NSF graduate fellowship course:*

Fellows will attend a graduate class offered in the Chemistry Department that prepares first-year graduate students for NSF fellowship application, at the end of which fellows will have a complete NSF graduate application ready for submission.

- *Networking with other scientists:*

UW PREP will also invite, as part of existing seminar programs, one prominent scientist each year from URM groups. These speakers will meet with the PREP fellows as a group in an informal lunch session and other networking activities.

- *Networking with other URM students:*

All UW PREP fellows will be expected to attend SACNAS and/or ABRCMS in the fall for networking, where fellows will be encouraged to present their work in a poster or an invited oral presentation.