

Scholarship Opportunities for Students interested in UAB Undergraduate Cancer-Related Research

RACE²¹

The UAB Center for Community OutReach Development (CORD) and UAB O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center were awarded a National Cancer Institute grant to support the progress of students from high school through UAB's undergraduate cancer biology programs. The scholarships will support research activities in mentored laboratories by participating students in the program. We are therefore issuing this call for applications.

Scholarships will be for the following amounts:

UAB Freshman Year = \$2,000

UAB Sophomore Year = \$3,000

UAB Junior and Senior Year = \$5,000

In addition, the program expects to offer an additional \$1,000 to the top-scoring research poster and \$500 for second place at the annual CORD Summer Closing Ceremony.

This scholarship can be in addition to any other scholarships and or wages that you receive from other sources.

Expectations include:

1. Awardees must be students in good standing in their undergraduate major at UAB and maintain a 3.0 overall GPA in all courses taken at UAB.
2. Awardees must actively conduct research that is related to cancer biology and work in a mentored research lab at UAB. **The eligible research activities include all areas related to cancer research, e.g., bench science, patient-based research, bioinformatics, health disparities, population science, etc. Participants must complete a 9-week (no less than 30 hours per week) research-intensive internship during the summer of their rising freshman and sophomore years and year-round research during their junior and senior years at UAB.**
3. Awardees must present their results at the annual poster *RACE²¹* competition in late July.
4. Attend monthly educational/sharing opportunities scheduled by the Program Manager.

5. Assist in CORD high school programs that create a pathway for the next generation of cancer researchers. This includes the **BioBridge** summer camp or full-day cancer-themed research experience located at **GENEius**.

***BioBridge** is a week-long course offered twice during the summer that provides hands-on experiences covering the principles of cellular and molecular biology, and genetics using biotechnology and hands-on laboratory techniques. Students will get a head-start on 9th-grade biology content in the context of cancer research. The **GENEius** lab is located at the McWane Science Center and will give hands-on cancer biology training to HS students, such as detecting mutated cancer suppressor genes using molecular biology tools and establishing and interpreting family pedigrees.*

6. Awardees will also participate in NIH research to identify best practices in science education, including an annual survey and focus group sessions. We intend to track the progress of all students in the program for at least 10 years.

Preference will be given to students on a trajectory to a research (including clinical research) career in cancer biology (this includes bench science, Clinical, patient-based, bioinformatics, health disparities, populations science, etc.). Further preference will be given to applicants from populations with **disadvantaged backgrounds (see pg. 5)** in cancer biology research in the United States. **RACE²¹ participants will be expected to be part of an NIH research study that examines optimal pathways to science careers, including annual questionnaires and tracking of student trajectories toward a research career.**

New Applicants: To apply for the program, fill out the attached Application Form, save it, and e-mail Items 1-3 as a PDF to Michelle Johnson at msjohnson@uab.edu or to the CORD Office at ccord@uab.edu.

Please ask your school and teachers to e-mail items 4 and 5 to Michelle Johnson at msjohnson@uab.edu or CORD at ccord@uab.edu.

Call us at 205-975-5120 or 205-934-5171 for further information.

Please visit us on the web at: www.uab.edu/cord

RACE²¹ Cancer Biology Research Scholarship
2024-2025

Application Form for New Applicants



To be eligible for participation, applicants should:

- Students in degree-seeking programs related to cancer research should apply. However, priority may be given to Cancer Biology majors.
- Have an interest in and a demonstrated aptitude for a career in cancer research.
- Commit to pursuing cancer research in the current school year.
- Have an overall 3.0 GPA or higher in all UAB courses and making efficient progress toward degree completion.

You must submit a COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET which includes:

1. The Application form below.
2. **New Applicants:** A 500-word essay¹ describing your personal and career interests as they relate to cancer research.
3. Passport-size photo (please attach headshot above).

The following must be sent directly to the RACE²¹ program manager, Michelle Johnson, by your teachers or school administrators either by mail or electronically to UAB CORD, c/o Michelle Johnson, Rm 532, 933 19th St. S. Birmingham, AL 35294 or msjohnson@uab.edu.

4. Letters of recommendation from 2 teachers or instructors at your former or current high school or college (Students out of High School for >1 year should ask at least one college faculty member to write one of the letters).
5. Official transcript indicating your progress at your current and former high school or current college.

Priority will be given to students from groups from disadvantaged backgrounds in cancer research. (See the definition of disadvantaged background on page 5)

For UAB students, applications will be accepted until all slots are filled; however, to be assured of a scholarship that starts in Fall 2024, please submit your application by **November 22, 2024.**

For incoming Freshmen applying for the Fall or Summer of 2025, applications are open from October 1, 2024, and must be submitted before **April 5, 2025.**

All Application materials from you (items 1-3) must be received in one complete package simultaneously. Items 4 and 5 must be directly e-mailed to the program manager by the school and teacher(s).

Please e-mail applications items 1-3 to Michelle Johnson at msjohnson@uab.edu or the CORD Office at ccord@uab.edu.

Please ask school administrators and teachers to e-mail items 4 and 5 to Michelle Johnson at msjohnson@uab.edu or CORD at ccord@uab.edu

¹ Essays should be written in MLA format, i.e., Arial 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, and double-spaced.



RACE²¹ Research Scholarship Application for New Applicants

Contact Information:

Current Date:		
Applicant's Name:		
Date of Birth:		
Blazer ID, if Applicable		
Mailing Address:		
City:		
State and Zip Code:		
Telephone Number (Cell):		
Alternative Number:		
UAB Email, if applicable:		
Email:		
Race and Ethnicity:		Prefer not to Answer: <input type="checkbox"/>
M/F:		Prefer not to Answer: <input type="checkbox"/>
1st Generation Student (Y/N)		Prefer not to Answer: <input type="checkbox"/>
High School Attended:		
Do you qualify as an individual from a Disadvantaged Background? (Y/N)	Based on the table below, please indicate.	
		Prefer not to Answer: <input type="checkbox"/>
HS Graduation Date:		
Name of Parent(s) / Guardian:		
Mailing Address (if different):		
City:		
State and Zip Code:		
Phone (Daytime):		
Phone (Cell):		

NIH definition of individuals from **Disadvantaged Backgrounds** are defined as those who meet two or more of the following criteria:

1. Were or currently are homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;
2. Were or currently are in the foster care system, as defined by the Administration for Children and Families;
3. Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years;
4. Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree (see First-Generation and Continuing-Generation College Students: A Comparison of High School and Postsecondary Experiences);
5. Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell grants;
6. Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a parent or child;
7. Grew up in one of the following areas: a) a U.S. rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer, or b) a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas (qualifying zip codes are included in the file). Only one of the two possibilities in #7 can be used as a criterion for the disadvantaged background definition.

Table 1: In alignment with institutional policy, the terms “disadvantaged” and “underrepresented” (UR) are used herein to denote individuals who:

- are first-generation students, irrespective of race;
- faced challenging social, economic, educational, cultural, or other life circumstances;
- demonstrate a commitment to bringing diverse people together;
- demonstrate a commitment to working with underrepresented or disadvantaged populations;
- demonstrate achievement and determination in the face of personal challenges;
- have disabilities (physical or mental) as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- are from disadvantaged backgrounds as defined in [section C of the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity](#);
- attend and/or who are employed at historically black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions; and/ or
- graduated from rural high schools, high-poverty, or low-performing high schools. According to the Department of Education, low-performing schools are defined as those that rank in the bottom 10% of their respective state.

<https://extramural-diversity.nih.gov/diversity-matters/disadvantaged-backgrounds>

Questions about you and your academic and career goals:

1. Are you a UAB Student? Yes No
 - If no, are you expecting to apply to UAB in the Fall Semester Yes No
2. What year did you begin as a full-time student at UAB? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
3. Are you currently in the UAB cancer biology undergraduate major? Yes No
4. If the answer to #3 is No, have you been accepted into the cancer biology major? Yes No
5. If the answer to both #3 and #4 is no, what is your current major? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

6. Please list all Scholastic awards or honors you have received:	
7. Have you carried out (are you conducting) any cancer research? If so, please describe.	
8. Please list school/community activities in which you are involved.	
9. Please indicate your cancer research career interest (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Basic mechanisms underlying cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Research into cancer better/earlier detections
<input type="checkbox"/>	Development of cancer treatments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Epidemiology of Cancer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clinical Oncology
10. What are your plans after graduation?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Work in a research lab
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enter graduate school in biomedical sciences (including engineering)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enter medical school
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: Please specify

I certify that the information contained in this application is correct and complete. I grant permission for information concerning my educational records to be released to UAB-CORD for the purpose of establishing eligibility to participate in this program.

Applicant's Signature

Date:

Please e-mail items 1 – 3 to Michelle Johnson at msjohnson@uab.edu or to the CORD office at ccord@uab.edu.

Questions? Please call us at: 205-975-5120 or 205-934-5171. Please visit us on the web at: www.uab.edu/cord.

You may send in the items as scanned documents or a PDF.

11. Please type your 500-word essay describing your personal and career interest as they relate to cancer research in the space provided. We suggest that you create this in WORD and then copy the text into the box below.

Insert Text Here