Summer Research Program 2025

FAQs

1. **Why are certain projects considered part of the "mission"?**

   SRP positions are funded through NIH training grants which are to train students in the NIH mission areas. A minority training grant also exists for funding projects related to cardiovascular disease and hematology. The remainder of positions are funded through the Pritzker School of Medicine. Because Pritzker funding is finite, ensuring SRP funding for Pritzker students overall depends on ensuring that at least half of our students work in our mission areas.

2. **I looked through the Scholarly Opportunities Online Catalog and have not found a project that I am interested in. What should I do?**

   We advise that you review the Scholarly Opportunities Online Catalog and **favorite any and all projects that you may be interested in.** Schedule a meeting with the faculty who very likely will showcase the SRP project and/or other related projects. **Many faculty have additional projects that may not be listed in the Scholarly Opportunities Online Catalog.** Often times, faculty know of other projects (with them or other faculty) that are IRB approved and may be relevant to your area of interest. If you are still at a loss, contact scholarshipanddiscovery@bsd.uchicago.edu as soon as possible to discuss potential opportunities.

3. **I have an idea about a project, how can I find a mentor?**

   We strongly encourage that you **pursue an ongoing IRB-approved project with a mentor who is invested in that project.** Student-initiated research projects for the SRP are unlikely to be approved for several reasons including: 1) lack of IRB approval or delay in project initiation due to seeking IRB approval (IRB approval may take months); 2) lack of a mentor investment in the project. The goal of SRP is to provide you with the skills and experience of conducting research. For those with the desire to conduct a student-initiated project, obtaining a PhD or additional training equivalent with mentorship is appropriate.

4. **When should I begin meeting with a research mentor?**

   You can meet with a mentor if you find a project you are interested in. Projects listed in the Scholarly Opportunities Online Catalog indicate faculty interest in mentoring students for research projects and can facilitate finding a project. You will also have the opportunity to interact with experienced mentors from each department who can connect you to other mentors or recommend projects based on your interest.

5. **I emailed a potential mentor last week and have not heard back from him/her? What should I do?**

   We recommend that you pursue two or three opportunities at the same time. You do not need to wait to hear from one faculty member before investigating other options. **Keep in mind that faculty are busy. Faculty schedules are challenged by clinical-service responsibilities, remote conferences,**

dealing with a deadline, or trying to keep up with their email. You must factor this into the time it will take to contact your mentor (and set up an appointment). Many students often get into a bind because they wait until two or three weeks before the deadline to find a mentor, only to panic since the mentor can't meet with them for a variety of reasons listed above. These applications also tend to be of lower quality since less time and faculty input is invested in them. If you truly cannot coordinate a meeting time with your mentor (or do not hear back at all), we strongly advise that you pursue a different mentor and project. Your mentor should be invested in you and if they are not able to contribute the time to ensure a timely and high quality application for the deadline, it is unlikely that your summer experience will be much different. If you miss the application deadline (as with all research and educational opportunities including medical school), it is unlikely that your application will be considered.

6. **I would like to go abroad and do research somewhere else. Can I get funding through SRP?**

   In general, SRP funding is available for a limited number of global health research opportunities with University of Chicago faculty mentors who have IRB-approved projects that are ongoing. SRP funding is only available for work with University of Chicago faculty members. For those students that are funded through other mechanisms who wish to participate in the SRP forum, applications will be considered. If you are considering a Global Health project, please reach out to Brian Callender, MD
   bcallend@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu

7. **I would like to PE the Human Body Course and also do SRP. Is this allowed?**

   For students who wish to participate in SRP, we recommend serving as an anatomy PE after the conclusion of SRP in late August to allow for full participation in SRP especially towards the end of the research when the focus is on preparing the final paper and presentation. Rare exceptions may be made for exceptional students who wish to participate fully as an anatomy PE and also in SRP. These decisions are made by SRP Co-Chairs in conjunction with Dr. Callum Ross and are based on their ability to function as an anatomy PE while incurring a full-time obligation of SRP, the quality of the research proposed, the mentor for the project, and the student's ability to carry out the research. Students approved to be a PE for Human Body during SRP cannot be paid for their PE responsibilities.

8. **When can I begin working on the SRP project?**

   We recommend waiting until after the Steering Committee has reviewed your application and notified you of your acceptance into the program at the beginning of the Spring Quarter. Research proposals may be rejected or require substantial revision prior to acceptance, therefore it is important that you invest the time necessary to develop a scientifically rigorous proposal with your mentor. Use time during the Winter Quarter to find a mentor and to develop a robust project.

9. **I need STATA or statistical support for my project. What should I do?**

   As a student, you have full access to STATA from your personal device using the Remote Apps and Desktop
   Connection or the UChicago Virtual Lab website.

   If you will regularly use the same computer to connect to the Virtual Lab, you can add a direct connection from your operating system's Control Panel:

For PC:
1. Open your Windows Control Panel, switch to Icon View, and open "**Remote Apps and Desktop Connections**.
2. At the left side of the Window, click "**Set up a new connection with RemoteApp and Desktop Connections**."
3. Fill in the address "**https://vlabapps.uchicago.edu/**" and click Next.
4. When you see the "**Ready to set up the connection**" dialog, Click Next.
5. A Windows Security dialog will appear, Login with your cNetID and password making sure to use "**ADLOCAL\cNetID**" and password.
6. Return to the "**Setup Connection**" dialog and click Finish.

This will add a folder to your Windows Start Menu (VLAB Remote Apps). When you want to launch a RemoteApp, you can use these shortcuts.

For Mac:

1. Download or open the Microsoft Remote Desktop app for MAC.Click the "+"
2. at the top and "Add Workspace", use "**https://vlabapps.uchicago.edu/**"
3. At this point you can either leave the User Account field to "Ask When Required".
4. Click next and authenticate.
5. Microsoft Remote Desktop will now present you the list of available apps in the Workspace tab.
6. When starting and app and the prompts asks for a username and password, Login with your cNetID and password making sure to use "**ADLOCAL\cNetID**" and password.

You can also access the Virtual Lab via the web if you do not want to create a shortcut on your computer; you can find instructions here: UChicago Virtual Lab | Academic Technology Solutions

With questions regarding this process, please contact IT services: itservices@uchicago.edu or 773-702-5800.

Statistical software is often provided by mentors. Since not all students require STATA and a variety of software programs are used by mentors, we rely on faculty to provide resources that you will need to complete your project. Students who wish to purchase their own copy of software for their laptop can do so through ITS (http://answers.uchicago.edu/page.php?id=20254) or directly through the manufacturer at their own expense.

Also know that biostatistical support is available to faculty mentors through the Biostatistics Clinic and an appointment can be made through the following website (biotime.uchicago.edu/Clinic.aspx). The Biostats Clinic provides free, short-term statistical consultation.

10. **How can I make sure that I get a paper out of my SRP project?**

    A Summer Quarter project in and of itself is unlikely to lead to scholarly work (especially a publication). Students who continue their relationship with their mentor well into their medical school training (i.e. second year, Fentress/Arnold award during fourth year) are more likely to successfully produce scholarly products (posters, abstracts, papers) than those that limit themselves to Summer Quarter exposure. Therefore, we advise not pursuing any project with the expectation that your summer work alone will result in a scholarly product. We do, however, strongly encourage students to work with mentors that have a track record of scholarly work with students. *HINT: It's often a good idea to ask students who have worked with a mentor before regarding their success in this area.*

Frequently Asked Questions about Scholarship & Discovery

11. What will mentors know about Scholarship & Discovery?

Many of the mentors that have listed in the Scholarly Opportunities Online Catalog are experienced mentors who have sponsored students for many years. While we have sent out information to the faculty who listed in the Scholarly Opportunities Online Catalog explaining Scholarship & Discovery, it is very possible that mentors are still learning about the initiative. We advise that you talk to mentors about working with them over the summer first and keep in mind that they may still be learning about Scholarship & Discovery. If any mentors are unclear, you can direct them to our website (pritzker.uchicago.edu/academics/scholarship-discovery) and email (scholarshipanddiscovery@bsd.uchicago.edu) and we can follow up with information. The key for mentors to understand is that they don't need to "do anything extra" to be your Scholarship & Discovery mentor other than to help you to complete a project.

12. Do I have to do SRP for Scholarship & Discovery? Do I have to use my SRP project for S&D?

Remember summer work is optional – while we anticipate many of you will choose to participate in SRP and use your SRP project for Scholarship & Discovery, it is not required that you do so. We encourage you to choose the best project that matches your broad interests and also take advantage of other opportunities available to Pritzker students in a variety of activities (PE, community service, travel, etc.). Your track choice will be made in the beginning of second year.