

**American Cancer Society Diversity in Cancer Research (DICR)
Summer Undergraduate internship Program
Grant Application Guidelines 2025**

About

The ACS Diversity in Cancer Research (DICR) Undergraduate Internship Program is designed to increase diversity in the cancer research workforce by offering underrepresented minority undergraduate students the chance to gain hands-on experience in cancer research. This program provides valuable career development opportunities that will help prepare students for future careers in cancer research. The USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center (USC NCCC) has received funding from the ACS to offer eight (8) \$5,000 stipends for undergraduate students to participate in this 10-week summer internship. Please note that funding for living expenses, such as housing, food, and transportation, is not provided.

The application review process will be conducted by the USC NCCC Review Committee and may take 2–4 weeks. The program will run from late May to early August 2024.

All interested students must submit their [Eligibility Form](#) by **5:00 PM (PST) on Friday, February 14, 2025**. If selected, you will need to submit your [Preliminary Research Proposal](#) by **5:00 PM (PST) on Wednesday, March 26, 2025**.

If selected, you will need to submit your Full [Full Research Proposal](#) by **5:00 PM (PST) on Friday, April 11, 2025**.

Eligibility Requirements

1. *Underrepresented Minority Status:* Applicants must be a member of an underrepresented population in biomedical research, as defined by NIH.
2. *Academic Standing:* Applicants must be rising sophomores, juniors, or seniors with an interest in any Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM) field.
3. *GPA:* A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required.
4. *Full-time Enrollment:* Applicants must be enrolled full-time (at least 12 units per semester).
5. *No Concurrent Summer Classes:* Students cannot enroll in summer courses while participating in the internship program.
6. *Degree Requirements:* Applicants must not be graduating before the program ends.

How to Apply

1. *Step 1:* Submit your [Eligibility Form](#) by 5:00 PM (PST) on Friday, February 14, 2025.
2. *Step 2:* If your eligibility form is accepted, contact a faculty mentor from the USC Cancer Center. Visit the [Cancer Center Members page](#) for a list of potential mentors.
3. *Step 3:* If selected, work with your mentor to develop a preliminary research project proposal; you will need to submit your [Preliminary Research Proposal](#) by **5:00 PM (PST) on Wednesday, March 26, 2025**.
4. *Step 4:* Submit your Full [Research Proposal Form](#) by 5:00 PM (PST) on Monday, April 11, 2025.

After Acceptance:

1. Once accepted, you will work with your mentor to complete any required compliance steps, such as HIPAA certification or lab safety training.
2. ACS DICR funding will be disbursed only once your mentor has obtained necessary institutional approvals (e.g., IRB or IACUC).

3. Both the awardee and their mentor will sign an agreement outlining the program's milestones and deliverables.

ACS DICR
Summer Undergraduate internship Program
FAQ

Q: How do I find a faculty mentor?

First Step: Start by reviewing the [USC Cancer Center members page](#). Contact potential mentors via email and provide details about your interest in cancer research. Be sure to ask about available positions in their labs and any specific skills or training you would need. In your email, you should include:

- Explain the ACS DICR Undergraduate College Student Internship Program.
- Do you have availability on your research team this summer for me to join?
- What skills will I learn?
- What kind of training will I need?
- What are your current research projects?
- What would my role be in your laboratory?
- I read about your research work in [topic] and I am really interested in learning more. Could you provide a few research papers where I could read more about this topic?

Second step: Once there is a mutual understanding between you and your mentor about your participation in their laboratory and/or on their research team, establish a research project and draft a proposal with your approved mentor.

Third step: If selected, submit your [Preliminary Research Proposal](#) by 5:00 PM (PST) on Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

Fourth Step: If selected, Submit your [Full Research Proposal Form](#) by the Friday, April 11, 2025.

Q: When is the application deadline?

[Eligibility Form](#): due by 5:00 PM (PST) on Friday, February 14, 2025.

[Preliminary Research Proposal](#): due by 5:00 PM (PST) on Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

[Full Research Proposal](#): due by 5:00 PM (PST) on Friday, April 11, 2025.

Q: How long is the internship?

The program is a 10-week summer internship that runs from late May to early August 2024. Students must not be enrolled in other summer classes during this time.

Q: How much is the stipend?

Interns will receive a \$5,000 stipend for the summer. Additional funding for living expenses (housing, transportation, etc.) is not available.

Q: What if I'm not an underrepresented minority?

This internship is specifically for underrepresented minority students to increase diversity in cancer research. If you do not identify as part of an underrepresented group, unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply.

For more information regarding the ACS-DICR Summer Research Program, please contact acs-dicr@usc.edu.