

Undergraduates Gaining Research Opportunities For the Cancer Workforce (U-GROW)

U-GROW is a year-long program led by **Cedars-Sinai Cancer** in Los Angeles for students from the eight greater Los Angeles-area campuses of the **California State University** system.

We are an undergraduate research education program whose goal is to diversify the public health workforce. Through internships, mentorship, and training, we prepare college students from communities disproportionately affected by cancer health disparities for careers that promote health equity. We will accept a cohort of 15 scholars for Summer 2024.

Summer Program Components

Summer Institute (40 hrs)

- June 4-8, 2024, on Cedars-Sinai's campus
- A week-long introduction to cancer disparities research, diverse researcher role models, and a network of supportive and motivated peers, including U-GROW alumni

Summer Internship (20-40 hrs/week)

- Paid internship with a Cedars-Sinai researcher (requires a *minimum* 180 hour commitment, 360 hrs maximum)
- Internships will expose scholars to cancer disparities research and introduce them to research methods & ethics
- Internships are paid, so holding full-time employment over the summer is discouraged
- Successful completion of the internship depends on a satisfactory evaluation from your mentor and your participation in an end-of-summer poster presentation

Scholars-in-Training Meetings & Presentation at Summer Poster Session (30 hrs)

- 2-hour biweekly cohort meetings throughout the internship period
- Scholars will receive training in preparing and presenting a scientific poster about their research
- Posters will be presented in Fall of 2024 at an in-person poster session attended by Cedars-Sinai faculty, members of current scholars' support networks, and alumni scholars

Lunch & Learn Sessions on Cedars-Sinai campus

- Learn about cutting-edge cancer control research from nationally-renowned researchers
- Gain opportunities to network with diverse researcher role models from Cedars-Sinai and beyond

Fall, Winter, and Spring Program Components

Monthly Virtual Scientific Communication Workshops (40 hrs)

- A community of practice for writing, speaking, and presenting about science
- Prepare and workshop documents for admission to graduate programs (statement of research interests, elevator talk, etc)

Graduate Application Support Award (GASA)

- A \$500 scholarship covers application costs and exam preparation costs for eligible scholars

How to Apply

Check Your Eligibility

1. CSU juniors and seniors from Cal Poly Pomona, Channel Islands, Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Northridge, San Bernardino. *Cannot graduate before December 2024.*
2. Good academic standing (minimum GPA of 3.0)
3. Strong communication and organizational skills
4. An interest in learning about cancer disparities and cancer control research is required.
5. Research experience is *NOT* required.

Deadlines

Applications open	November 1, 2023
Application materials due	January 13, 2024 at 11: 59 PST
Selected scholars announced	Week of February 12, 2024
Internship placement process	February 12 – 26, 2024
Internship placements confirmed	Week of March 11, 2024
U-GROW Summer Institute	June 4 – 8, 2024
Internship period	June 10 – August 16, 2024

Information Sessions

All sessions will be held on [Zoom](#)

November 3 (Friday) 12-1
November 18 (Saturday) 12-1
December 1 (Friday) 12-1
December 16 (Saturday) 12 - 1
January 5 (Friday) 12-1

Learn more about U-GROW below:



Mailing List



Instagram



Website

Application Timeline & Checklist:

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

- Read through the entire information page; there will be a test. Just kidding.
- Make sure you meet eligibility requirements
- Familiarize yourself with all of the program components. **U-GROW is a year-round program and we are looking for scholars who are committed to completing each component**
 - Summer Institute: 40 hrs - Tuesday, June 4th - Saturday, June 8th, 2024
 - Summer Internship: 180 hrs required
 - Scholars-in-Training Meetings & Poster Prep: 30 hours
 - Scientific Communication Workshops: 2-4 hours a month for 9 months
- [Sign up for our program mailing list here](#) to be notified when we release the application

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

- Attend a U-GROW Virtual Information Session
- Gather the components of your application. You will need:
 - A CV or resume
 - An unofficial transcript for GPA verification
 - Educational history
 - A list of relevant academic and non-academic volunteer or work experiences or other positions of responsibility
 - Writing samples (prompts will be provided on the application)
- Identify someone who has supervised you (could be a CSU faculty member, a professional supervisor, a volunteer coordinator, etc) to fill out the Nomination Form. No letter is required

JANUARY

- Submit your application by January 13, 11:59 PM PST
- Remind your nominator to submit their nomination form