The Ohio State University College of Medicine

DISCOVERY PREP

One-Year Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program in Biomedical Science

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The mission of DISCOVERY PREP is to increase the number of PhD graduates who are underrepresented in the biomedical sciences. To accomplish this mission, we will provide the research and career-development skills needed to make our students more competitive and resilient. The program lasts 12 months.

Individuals who are eligible to apply are:
- Recent baccalaureate graduates (within the last 36 months) in the life sciences such as biology, biochemistry and molecular biology.
- U.S. citizens, noncitizen nationals or permanent residents.
- Individuals from an underrepresented group as defined by the NIH, such as racial and ethnic groups (including, but not limited to, African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives/ Native Hawaiians and citizens of the U.S. Pacific Islands), individuals with disabilities and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds (socially, culturally, economically).

INTENSE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE
Trainees spend 75 percent of their time in the laboratory, at the bench, side-by-side with a mentor committed to the DISCOVERY PREP program. Together, trainees and principal investigators choose two laboratories from the DISCOVERY PREP mentor faculty list in which to conduct research for two weeks each. Within one month of joining, trainees will officially join a lab for the remaining appointment. At the bench, PREP trainees gain invaluable hands-on research experience, completing a research project leading to presentations, posters and publications.

INDIVIDUALIZED DEVELOPMENT PLAN
An Individualized Development Plan (IDP) is created by the student and mentor for each DISCOVERY PREP trainee that is compatible with each trainee’s curricular and professional development needs. Trainee learning and development goals are assessed at matriculation to best guide the IDP. Each IDP addresses the trainee’s five-year goals to determine individual strengths, talents and any impediments that may impact application to a competitive PhD program. Once approved by the DISCOVERY PREP Advisory Committee, the IDP becomes the roadmap for success in and beyond the one-year commitment.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING
DISCOVERY PREP trainees are provided professional development training to maximize necessary skills and confidence to thrive in a research-intensive biomedical science doctorate program. In addition to tailored training programs as prescribed by the trainee’s IDP, other activities include:
- Workshops designed to enhance verbal abilities, bolster writing and communication skills, improve study habits, fortify interviewing skills and foster techniques for critical and analytical thinking;
- Scientific research and reference skill-building seminars;
- Research-in-progress and journal club presentations among DISCOVERY PREP trainees and PhD candidates;
- GRE study sections and materials library;
- Leadership and cultural diversity training;
- Annual trainee retreats;
- Social events among DISCOVERY PREP laboratories and other OSU post-baccalaureate programs; and
- Immersion in a research academic atmosphere.

FIVE REASONS TO CHOOSE DISCOVERY PREP
- To identify professional goals for the next five years and design your career path.
- To understand the reality of what it takes to advance in basic science research and provide motivational techniques to help you stay on track.
- To examine the influence of team development and group performance in research.
- To identify professional development skills that are key to advancement in a research career.
- To identify research strengths and how they can be further strengthened.

For more information, visit go.osu.edu/prep