THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Discovery PREP
One-Year Postbaccalaureate Research Education Program in Biomedical Sciences
The mission of Discovery PREP is to encourage individuals to pursue a doctorate in biomedical research. To accomplish this mission, we provide the research and career-development skills needed to make our participants 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, molecular biology, etc.

• U.S. citizens, noncitizen nationals or permanent residents

We especially encourage applications from individuals from groups under-represented in biomedical research, including African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives/Native Hawaiians, natives of the U.S. Pacific Islands, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from socially, culturally or economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Intense Research Experience

Trainees spend 75 percent of their time in the laboratory, working side by side, with a research mentor committed to the Discovery PREP program. Together, trainees and principal investigators choose two laboratories from the Discovery PREP mentor faculty list 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, research mentor and Discovery PREP faculty director. Trainee learning and development goals are assessed at matriculation to best guide the IDP, which is compatible with each trainee’s curricular and professional development needs. Each IDP addresses the trainee’s five-year goals to determine individual strengths, talents and any impediments that may impact admittance and success within a competitive PhD program. Once approved, the IDP becomes the roadmap for success in and beyond the one-year commitment.

Professional Development Training

Discovery PREP trainees receive professional development training to maximize skills and confidence needed 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 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

• Trainee retreats

• Social events

• Immersion in an academic research atmosphere to foster interdisciplinary approaches and collaboration

Five Reasons To Choose Discovery PREP

• To identify professional goals for the next five years and design your career path

• To understand what it takes to advance in basic science research and gain 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 key to your advancement in a research career

• To identify your research strengths and how they can be further strengthened

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

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