**Health Sciences Diversity Scholars Program (HSDSP)**

**Goals of the Program**

The Health Sciences Diversity Scholars Program (HSDSP) provides opportunities for individuals who have completed an undergraduate degree and are committed to a career in biomedical, health-related research. The goal of this two-year post baccalaureate program is to provide research-centered experience to students who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields and prepare them for graduate and/or medical school. In addition to research experience, this two-year post-bac, program will provide scholars with carefully designed mentoring to help prepare them for future careers in biomedical research and/or medicine.

**Support**

HSDSP provides a stipend equal to that of the School of Medicine graduate students, currently $41,200 per year to fellowship recipients. Health insurance is also provided. Scholarships are awarded for up to two years, based upon satisfactory performance during the first year. We anticipate supporting 2-3 fellows per year. Support will be provided by the office of the Senior Vice Chancellor, Health Sciences, academic departments and individual principal investigators, who are selected by the fellows from roster of faculty mentors in any of the schools of health sciences.

**Qualifications**

To be eligible for the program, scholars must have bachelor’s degree or equivalent from an accredited 4-year undergraduate institution. Although a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale is desirable, other criteria including reference letters, previous research experience and a personal statement will also be considered. US citizenship or permanent residency is required. Graduates from the University of Pittsburgh are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Training**

Scholars will carry out mentored research under the supervision of a faculty mentor for two years. Research will be complemented by graduate-level courses, seminars, workshops, training in best research practices, and scientific ethics. Guidance for delivering research presentations as well as crafting fellowship applications will be provided. Attendance and presentations at group meetings, local and national scientific conferences is encouraged. It is anticipated that the fellow will contribute to publications in scientific journals.

**Contact Us**

For questions, contact: Katie Rossi (DSRP@pitt.edu) or by phone (412) 648-9000

Dr. Saleem Khan (khan@pitt.edu)

**HSDSP Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Can international students apply? **No, this program is only for US citizens and permanent residents.**
2. Is there an application fee? **No, there is no fee for applying to this program.**
3. How long should the statement of academic goals be? **It should be no longer than 2 pages double-spaced. The font must be no smaller than 11 pt and no larger than 12 pt.**
4. Do I need to send official transcripts for all schools I have attended? **No, you must only submit unofficial transcripts for the institution where you received your undergraduate degree. If you are selected for the program, then you would have to supply official transcripts.**
5. What is the deadline for application? **The deadline is March 15, 2025.**
6. Do I need to take the GRE? **GRES ARE NOT REQUIRED and will not be considered in the evaluation of your application if submitted.**
7. If selected, when would I start the program? **The program starts in the Fall of 2025. You would need to be in Pittsburgh in mid to late August.**
8. What does the program provide? **Fellows receive a stipend that is currently $41,200 per year. Health insurance is also provided. Scholarships are awarded for up to two years, based upon satisfactory performance during the first year.**
9. What is not covered by the program? **Relocation expenses, your living expenses, etc. These should be covered by your stipend.**
10. Can I pick my mentor? **You can indicate in your statement of academic goals the names of 3-5 faculty members within the school of health sciences with whom you would be interested in working. If you are unsure, we will suggest faculty mentors to you based upon your indicated areas of interest.**
11. Can I get an advance on my stipend? **No. If selected for the program your first**

**stipend payment will be on the last working day of September 2025.**

[**https://www.medschool.pitt.edu/health-sciences-diversity-research-scholars-program**](https://www.medschool.pitt.edu/health-sciences-diversity-research-scholars-program)