

## ***Explore a Career in Medicine***

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine would like to invite you as a minority premedical student (African American, Mexican American, Mainland Puerto Rican, or Native American) to participate in our Summer Premedical Academic Enrichment Program (SPAEP) Level I or II. This program, open to high school graduates and college students, is designed specifically to prepare and support minority students who wish to pursue careers in the field of medicine.

Spend seven weeks in Level I, strengthening your academic skills and learning more about careers in medicine. Or, spend seven weeks engaged in laboratory research and MCAT preparation through Level II. Both programs will enhance your skills and knowledge in science, writing and public speaking. You'll discover a challenging and stimulating program in the environment of a major academic medical center.

## ***The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Health System***

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Health System (UPMCHS) is a dynamic, progressive academic health care complex encompassing six schools of health sciences, and a host of affiliated hospitals, clinical facilities, and specialized medical centers. In recent years, UPMCHS has experienced a renaissance in programs, personnel, resources, and physical space. A concerted effort has been made to establish pioneering health care programs and to seek out some of the nation's most talented scientists to fill key leadership positions.

Since the early 1980's, UPMCHS has launched major, interdisciplinary programs in cancer, AIDS, immunology, genetics, aging, orthopaedics, and cardiovascular disease coupled with already strong programs in

transplantation, epidemiology, neuroscience, and psychiatry, among others. Among the lab-to-clinic centers that have blossomed during the past decade are the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute; the Division of Transplantation Surgery; the Sports Medicine Institute; the Center for Emergency Medicine; the Center for Neuroscience; the Heart Institute; the Brain, Behavior, and Immunity Center; the Benedum Geriatric Center; the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center; and the Center for Biotechnology and Bioengineering.

## ***The Academic Program - Level I***

SPAEP - Level I is designed for those entering their first or second year of college, although third year students may be selected. Students study five diseases of importance to minority communities: AIDS, hypertension, smoking, sickle cell anemia, and diabetes. These diseases are used to illustrate key biological and chemical principles, and their importance to the study of medicine. A 15 hour per week Medical Biology course (consisting of talks, labs and discussions) and a six hour per week General Writing and Public Speaking course is integrated in the study of these diseases.

Beyond the academic curriculum, participants engage in a variety of activities such as viewing surgery in the operating room, observing births, touring the County morgue, shadowing physicians, and participating in a community health fair.

All Level I students follow the same curriculum, and the courses are offered on a non-credit basis. The program is limited to a maximum of 12 students, so each can receive individualized personal support and academic counseling. Courses are taught by University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and affiliated faculty. The summer culminates in a presentation of an independent project to which all SPAEP faculty and students are invited.

## ***The Academic Program - Level II***

*SPAEP - Level II is a highly competitive summer research program that pairs talented minority undergraduates with biomedical researchers in a variety of areas. Faculty from the departments of Human Genetics, Cell Biology and Physiology, Immunology, Pathology, and many others, have supervised the experiences of SPAEP students in the past. Every effort is made to match students with researchers working in their stated field of interest.*

*In addition to a 32- hour per week research schedule, Level II students participate in medical school admission preparation workshops, and MCAT preparation.*

*Level II students submit a paper on their research at the completion of the program, and present their work to their SPAEP peers and preceptors.*

*Social activities for SPAEP Level I and II students are held together. Thus, students are able to build a broad network of peers who are on the same academic and career path.*

## ***Enrichment Activities - Levels II and II***

*Learning Skills Seminars - Sessions are offered by a learning skill specialist, and focus on assessment and development of study skills such as note-taking, test-taking, problem solving and memorization techniques. Assistance in reading and writing scientific material is available. Individual sessions may be held as requested.*

*Brown Bag Lunch Series - Offered once per week. Minority physicians give informal presentations on their backgrounds, preparation, interests and goals.*

*Physician Shadowing - Students are provided an opportunity to accompany physicians on their daily duties and observe the clinical hospital setting.*

## ***Program Benefits***

There is no charge for tuition or educational materials. All transportation, housing and meal costs are assumed by the program. Each participant receives a \$1,000.00 stipend, paid in two \$500 installments at the beginning and end of the program.

## ***Residence and Student Life***

Students reside on the University of Pittsburgh campus in the Litchfield Towers, a secure, air-conditioned dormitory. The dormitory is co-ed, but men and women are on separate floors. Lounges, laundry facilities and vending machines are available for student use. Meals will be provided through *Pitt Funds*, a declining balance meal plan that allows dining in campus cafeterias, and many local eating establishments.

Students are supervised in the dormitories by a Student Coordinator who also resides in the dormitory. The Student Coordinator organizes social activities and functions as the laboratory assistant. In addition, all staff members of the Office of Student Affairs/Minority Programs are available to the students for support.

Students receive campus identification cards, and thus have full access to the University of Pittsburgh campus, including the William Pitt Student Union, recreational and computing facilities, and the Maurice and Laura Falk Library of the Health Sciences. Student health coverage will be provided.

**Students may not pursue external employment or additional course work during their participation.**

## ***Social Policy and Guidelines***

Students enrolled in SPAEP must be mature, capable of assuming responsibility for their behavior, and willing to comply with all program and campus regulations designed to protect the health and safety of all participants. Students must attend and be on time for all classes and scheduled activities.

## ***Application Instructions***

1. Ask your college/university or high school to send your official transcript to the address below.
2. Ask two professors or teachers who are familiar with your academic work to complete and submit recommendations. **Print as many copies of the form as needed.**
3. Complete all sections of the application form and return it, along with an essay describing your background, career goals, and interest in this program, to the address below.
4. ***It is your responsibility to make certain that your college registrar or high school counselor and those submitting recommendation forms on your behalf have sent the necessary materials on or before the deadline date.***

Enrollment in SPAEP Level I is limited to 15 students, and Level II accommodates a maximum of 6 students. Early application is encouraged.

The application deadline is **March 1**. Your application will not be considered unless **all** materials have been received.

5. Application materials, and any questions, should be directed to:

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
Office of Student Affairs/Minority Programs  
M-247 Scaife Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15261  
(412) 648-8987 phone  
(412) 624-2516 fax

[minorityaffairs@medschool.pitt.edu](mailto:minorityaffairs@medschool.pitt.edu)

# SPAEP Application Form

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
Office of Student Affairs/Minority Programs  
M-247 Scaife Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15261  
(412) 648-8987  
(412) 624-2516 (fax)  
minorityaffairs@medschool.pitt.edu

I am applying for summer 20 \_\_\_\_

Level I \_\_\_\_ Level II \_\_\_\_ (please check one)

Please type (**or write neatly**) the information requested in the space provided.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (M.I.)

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ - - \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
MM/DD/YY

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_ Current Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Valid until (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Current Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to receive mail at my:  Permanent Address  Current Address

Are you a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you describe yourself? Please check all that apply. (optional)

- African-American  Native -American  Mexican-American  
 Mainland Puerto Rican  Other (please specify)

Please provide the name, address, and phone number of someone who is always aware of your whereabouts.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

## Family Information

Father  Living  Deceased Mother  Living  Deceased

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_ Education \_\_\_\_\_

Income \_\_\_\_\_ Income \_\_\_\_\_

Number of brothers and sisters \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of brothers and sisters \_\_\_\_\_

If any of your brothers or sisters attend or have attended college, please list the institutions, dates of attendance, and any degrees obtained.

Institution	Dates Attended	Degree
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Are there special circumstances or family problems that we should know about as we evaluate your application?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List in order, beginning with high school, all schools, colleges and universities you have attended, whether or not a degree was granted.

Institution	Major	Dates attended	Degree
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Please list the titles and grades of your science and math courses. Please identify high school courses.

_____ ( )	_____ ( )
_____ ( )	_____ ( )
_____ ( )	_____ ( )
_____ ( )	_____ ( )
_____ ( )	_____ ( )

Please indicate your current school status:

College:  Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior      High School:  Senior

Please list SAT Scores: Verbal \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_

Please list ACT Scores: English \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Science Reasoning \_\_\_\_\_

If you have taken the MCAT, please list your scores:

Physical Science \_\_\_\_\_ Biological Science \_\_\_\_\_ Verbal Reasoning \_\_\_\_\_ Writing Sample \_\_\_\_\_

List principal extracurricular activities including volunteer work during the past three years (exclude jobs).

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

How have you spent the last three summers?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

List any academic honors, prizes, or scholarships you received in high school or college.

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At the present, what is your career goal?

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How did you hear about this program? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Recommendations**

Give the names, titles, and addresses of two professors or teachers whom you will ask to complete and submit recommendations.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Essay**

***On a separate page***, please discuss your background, explaining any unusual aspects of your education and record, and career plans at this stage of your education. Explain why you are interested in the Summer Premedical Academic Enrichment Program, and what you expect to gain from this program.

I certify that the information in this application is true and correct.

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Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer Premedical Academic Enrichment Program  
Recommendation Form**

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

I waive access to this document under the Family Rights and Privacy Act (the Buckley Amendment).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**To the applicant:**

After you have read and completed the information above, please give this form to a faculty member who is familiar with your work.

**To the recommender:**

The above named student is applying for the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine's Summer Premedical Academic Enrichment Program. Your candid estimate of the applicant's academic performance, potential for success, and qualities as a person will help us in making selections for admission. Information provided on this form will be used solely for admissions purposes, and as such, is not subject for review by the student. Please complete this form as soon as possible, and return it to the address above. Our application deadline is **March 1**.

1. How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

2. In what subject(s) have you taught the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In your judgment, does the applicant show strong interest in the field of medicine? Please comment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Please provide a brief, frank appraisal of the applicant's academic capability, motivation and personality. Feel free to continue on an additional sheet, or attach a separate letter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Recommender Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_