

Chicago **EYES** on Cancer

Educators and **Y**outh **E**njoy **S**cience

Chicago EYES on Cancer welcomes high school and college students to explore exciting careers in cancer research. Participants work full time for two consecutive summers in the laboratories of established cancer researchers, gaining hands-on experience in areas at the forefront of the field: molecular mechanisms of cancer, experimental therapeutics, cancer imaging, bioinformatics, health disparities, and more. The summer experience also includes career development and skill-building workshops, a cancer-based faculty lecture series, individualized mentoring and a culminating research symposium for family, friends, and members of the scientific community. During the school year, participants complete monthly activities exposing them to key facets of the cancer field, from basic scientific concepts to patient care and advocacy. Participants receive a taxable stipend of \$5,000 per year.

PROGRAM DATES

Monthly enrichment activities are held on select evenings and weekends, via Zoom, from January 2025 through December 2026 (excluding summer months). They require 2-4 hours of effort each month. The 2025 summer research experience runs from June 16 - August 8 (40 hours/week). The 2026 summer research experience will follow a comparable schedule with dates finalized by November 2025.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- High school sophomore, junior or senior, OR college freshman or sophomore at time of application
- At least 16 years of age on or before June 16, 2025
- United States citizen or permanent resident
- Ability to commit to the full two-year program

Individuals from groups underrepresented in biomedicine, encompassing all relevant social, behavioral as well as health sciences, are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications are encouraged from any individual with a demonstrated commitment to increase the full participation of underrepresented groups in biomedicine.

Please refer to <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-031.html> for additional information.

ADMISSION

Admission to Chicago EYES on Cancer is highly competitive. Up to 12 applicants are accepted each year based on their demonstrated passion for science, interest in careers in biomedicine, and capacity to perform in a professional research setting. To apply:

- Submit the online application form by **11:59PM Central on Monday, December 2, 2024**. The online application form is accessible here: https://redcap.link/EYES_app2025.
- Arrange for two individuals (at least one of whom must be a teacher/professor) to complete the online applicant recommendation form by **11:59PM Central on Monday, December 2, 2024**. Download an instruction sheet for recommenders here: www.uchicagomedicine.org/EYES. Recommenders can access the online recommendation form here: https://redcap.link/EYES_rec2025.
- Applicants who advance to the second round: Complete an in-person interview with the program leadership team, scheduled for **Friday, January 3, 2025**.

Conflict of Interest Policy: The selection of applicants is managed by the program leadership team. Immediate family members of the leadership team, UChicago faculty, or the Chicago EYES on Cancer Advisory Committee are ineligible for the program. All applications will be subject to the Conflict of Interest Policy.

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Access the application form at https://redcap.link/EYES_app2025. Be prepared to enter the following information:

Academic Information

- Current year of study
- School name, address, and phone number

Program Information

- Your top three areas of interest, based on the following fields of cancer research:
 - **Molecular Mechanisms of Cancer:** Investigation of the molecular and cellular events that result in uncontrolled tumor cell growth and spread. Includes the study of gene mutations, signaling pathways, and regulation of cell proliferation, death, metabolism, and metastasis.
 - **Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics:** Research that focuses on identifying novel molecular targets for cancer therapy, predicting patient response to specific treatments (“Precision Medicine”), and translating research findings into clinical application by implementing new therapies, tests, or tools in cancer patient care.
 - **Computational Cancer Biology:** Analysis and interpretation of genomic and other large-scale data (bioinformatics) to understand the causes, risks, and outcomes of cancer.
 - **Cancer Imaging:** Development of innovative imaging technologies and analysis tools and methodologies to improve cancer detection, diagnosis, and treatment.
 - **Cancer Engineering/Biotechnology:** Biomedical or molecular engineering that applies engineering principles and design concepts to improve the prevention, detection, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer.
 - **Cancer Prevention and Control:** Determination of the environmental, genetic (biomarkers), psychological, biobehavioral, and economic factors underlying the development, risk, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, and survivorship of cancer, and devising strategies to reduce or eliminate those contributing factors.
- Responses to the following questions (limit 250 words per response):
 - Of the learning opportunities related to careers in science and medicine, why have you chosen to apply to this program? For example, you might discuss how the program relates to your academic and career plans, the nature of your interest in cancer, or what you hope to gain from the experience.
 - What qualities and experiences do you have that best prepare you for the demands of this program?
 - Is there anything else important for us to know about you?

RECOMMENDATIONS

Arrange for two individuals (at least one of whom must be a teacher/professor) to complete the online recommendation form on your behalf by 11:59PM Central on Monday, December 2, 2024. Download an instruction sheet for recommenders here:

www.uchicagomedicine.org/EYES. Recommenders can access the online recommendation form here:

https://redcap.link/EYES_rec2025.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- December 2, 2024: Application and two recommendations due by 11:59PM
- January 3, 2025: On-campus admissions interviews
- January 6, 2025: Acceptance notification
- January 17, 2025: Commitment deadline

CONTACT

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