

researchHStart

Motivation • Scholarship • Vision

ResearchHStart welcomes high school students from the Chicago and Urbana-Champaign areas to explore exciting careers in cancer research. Participants work full time in the laboratories of established cancer researchers, gaining hands-on experience in areas at the forefront of the field: cancer immunology, pharmacogenomics of anticancer agents, bioengineering, experimental cancer therapeutics, cancer disparities, and more. Rigorous research training is complemented by career development and skill-building workshops, a cancer-based faculty lecture series, and a network of faculty and peer mentors dedicated to students' success. The program culminates in a research symposium for family, friends, and members of the scientific community. Participants receive a taxable stipend of \$3,000.

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS: University of Chicago, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois Chicago, Northwestern University, and Rush University

PROGRAM DATES: June 16 – August 8, 2025

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- High school junior or senior at time of application
- At least 16 years of age by June 16, 2025
- Strong interest in a career in scientific research or medicine
- Ability to commit to 8 full weeks of programming, 35-40 hours/week

ADMISSION

Admission to researchHStart is highly competitive. No more than 30 participants will be selected across sites, 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 **11:59 PM Central on Monday, January 20, 2025**. The online application form is accessible here: https://redcap.link/RS_app_2025.
- Arrange for two individuals (at least one of whom must be a teacher) to complete the online applicant recommendation form by **11:59 PM Central on Monday, January 20, 2025**. The recommender information packet is accessible here: www.uchicagomedicine.org/researchHStart. The online recommendation form is accessible here: https://redcap.link/RS_rec_2025.
- Applicants who advance to the second round: Complete an in-person interview with the site leadership team, scheduled for **February 2025**.

***Conflict of Interest Policy:** The selection of applicants is managed by the leadership teams at each program site. Immediate family members of the site leadership teams or the researchHStart Advisory Committee are ineligible for the program. Immediate family members of faculty from a given site are ineligible for that site. All applications will be subject to the Conflict of Interest Policy.*



Comprehensive
Cancer Center



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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Access the researchHStart application form at https://redcap.link/RS_app_2025. Be prepared to enter the following information:

Academic Information

- Current school name, city, and zip code
- Current GPA (overall, unweighted)
- Most recent school transcript (PDF document labeled <LastName_FirstInitial Transcript>, e.g., Rowley_J Transcript)
Note: Transcripts do NOT have to be official. However, they should include courses and grades from the beginning of your freshman year. Your name and the name of your school should be clearly visible.

Program Information

- Site preference: University of Chicago, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois Chicago, Northwestern University (downtown medical campus), Rush University
Note: researchHStart does NOT provide housing or transportation for program participants. Please select only those sites for which you can make your own accommodations.
- Your top three areas of research interest, based on the following categories:

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 scientific and professional demands of this program?
 - Scientific progress depends on diverse expertise and perspectives. Tell us about an aspect of your own perspective, viewpoint, or lived experience that is important to you, and describe how it shapes the way you would learn from and contribute to the researchHStart community.
 - 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) to complete the online recommendation form on your behalf by 11:59 PM Central on Monday, January 20. The recommender information packet is accessible here:

www.uchicagomedicine.org/researchHStart. The online recommendation form is accessible here: https://redcap.link/RS_rec_2025.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- January 20, 2025: Application and two recommendations due by 11:59 PM Central
- February 2025: On-campus admissions interviews at respective program sites
- March 1, 2025: Acceptance notification
- March 14, 2025: Commitment deadline

CONTACT: researchHStart@bsd.uchicago.edu | 773-702-9699 | www.uchicagomedicine.org/researchHStart