

The National PROPEL Virtual Matchmaking Event

01.30.2026

At the event, meet hiring professors offering 1-2 year full-time research positions via series of 10 min mini-interviews

You local PROPEL program can offer:

- Curriculum to support scientific development
- Community of peers
- Grad application support

Eligibility:

- Must hold bachelor's degree by summer 2026
- Must be interested in pursuing PhD (MD/PhD or other combined PhD ok)
- Must be a US citizen or permanent resident

Apply by Dec 5th, 2025 at propelscholars.org/matchmaking-event

Matchmaking Event will host faculty from all the universities below:

IOWA



UCSF



Visit propelscholars.org
to learn more.

The National PROPEL Virtual Matchmaking Event

01.30.2026

At the event, meet hiring professors offering 1-2 year full-time research positions via series of 15 min mini-interviews

ICARE Program can offer:

- Additional mentorship
- Professional development
- Career development
- Grad application assistance

Eligibility:

- Must hold a bachelor's degree in 2025 or by summer of 2026
- Intend to pursue a doctoral degree in biomedical science, data science, population health, public health, or a health profession, graduate school or medical school
- Must be a US citizen or permanent resident
- Apply by Dec 5th, 2025, at propelscholars.org/matchmaking-event



Visit propelscholars.org to learn more.

Iowa Cancer Research Experience (ICARE) Program

Eligibility

- US citizen or permanent resident
- Bachelor's degree in 2025 or by summer of 2026
- Interested in pursuing a doctoral degree, health profession, graduate school, or medical school
- 1-2 year commitment to the program

Questions? Contact HCCC-ICAREPostBac@uiowa.edu

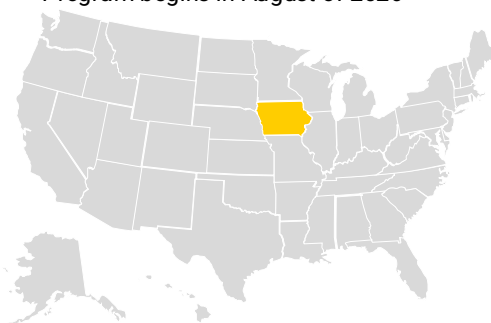


What ICARE offers:

- A paid research experience (\$38,755 + benefits) with laboratory mentorship at Iowa
- Mentorship, career and professional development training sessions and preparation for graduate school and medical school
- Full-time position as a postbac research position at Iowa

Process:

- Find a full-time position at Iowa (via Matchmaking Event or your own job search)
- Apply at <https://icarepostbac.sites.uiowa.edu/>
- Program begins in August of 2026



ICARE Leadership



**Jessica Sieren,
PhD**

ICARE Director
Principal Investigator
Associate Director for
Career Enhancement



**Andrean Simons-
Burnett, PhD**

ICARE Co-Director
Director, Free Radical and
Radiation Biology
Graduate Program



Amy Candelario

ICARE Program
Administrator



Badger PREP

Joan Jorgensen, DVM, PhD
Program Director

Katelyn Paz, PhD
Program Manager



**Post-Baccalaureate
Research Education Program**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Badger PREP is a 1year program to provide structured curriculum to research interns as the prepare for careers in the biological/biomedical sciences



Cohort 1: 2022-2023



Cohort 2: 2023-2024



Cohort 3: 2024-2025



Exact Sciences Field Trip



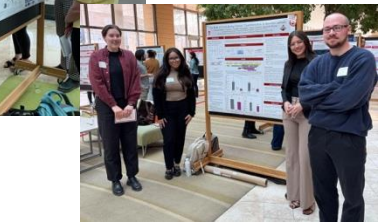
Grad Dash



Annual Winter Party



Orientation Bowling



SciMed Annual Poster Session

Badger PREP



1. Mentored Research Experience

- Must be working in the lab of a UW Faculty member

2. Badger PREP Seminar

- Meet weekly cohort and PREP Leadership
 - Graduate Applications
 - Professional Development
 - Scientific Communication

Major highlights of Badger PREP Seminar¹

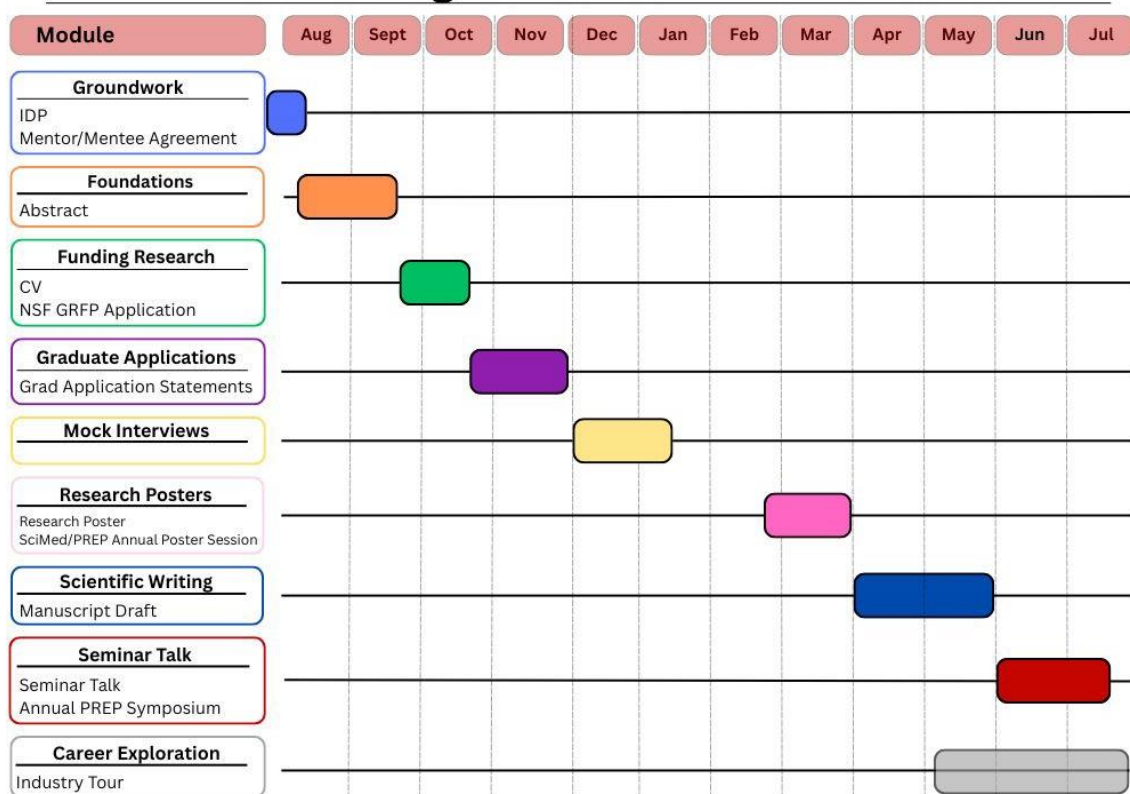
- Goal Setting/Time-management skills
- Mentor/Mentee Relationships
- Science Communication
- Funding research
- Graduate School Skills
- Diversity in STEM
- Responsible Conduct in Research
- Career Exploration

¹ Curriculum developed by Dr. Amber Smith based on *Entering Research* (2020). [Branchaw, Butz and Smith](#)

Major products from the Badger PREP Seminar

- Individual Development Plan (IDP)
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Application (NSF GRFP)
- CV/Resume
- Graduate School Applications
- Science Communication: Storytelling principles
 - Elevator pitch
 - Chalk talk
 - Scientific Research Poster
 - How to write a scientific manuscript
 - GOAL: draft (there is no paper expectation from the program)
 - 10-minute Seminar Talk

Badger PREP Modules



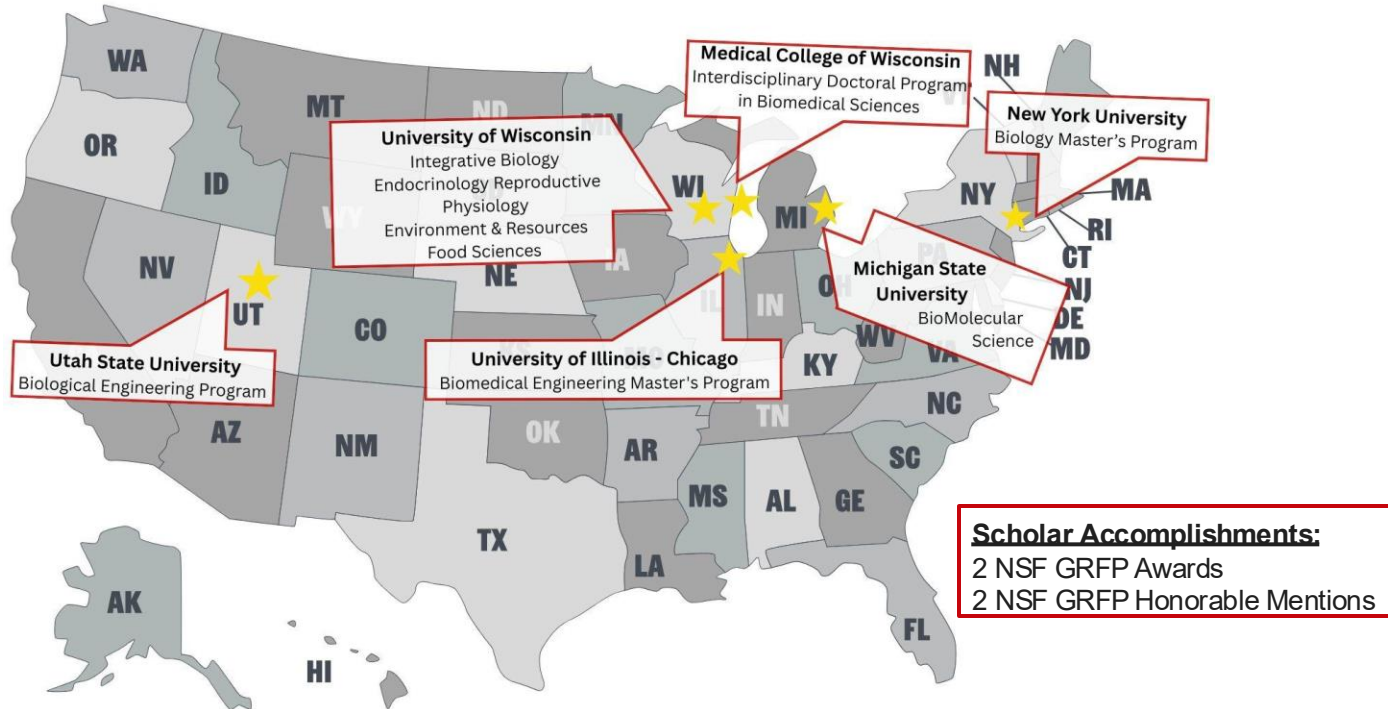
Participant Eligibility

- Working full time in a research lab of a UW-Madison faculty member
- Post-Baccalaureate - graduated with bachelor's degree within 3 years of applying to PREP
- Interest in pursuing a research-focused graduate program in the **biomedical sciences**
 - PhD, MD/PhD, DVM/PhD, DDS/PhD

Process

1. Secure a full time position at UW
2. Apply by June 1, 2026
 - a. Can apply as soon as you have a verbal or written job offer
 - b. Start date anytime before July
3. Mentor must also submit an application
4. Program begins in summer 2026 (July-Aug)

100% acceptance rate for scholars who have applied to graduate programs



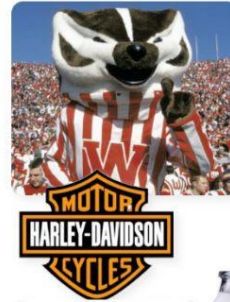
How to find a job at UW-Madison

- Check PREP Website
 - Apply→ Research Intern Job Board
- Email faculty of interest inquiring about Research Intern positions
- National PROPEL matchmaking event
 - Dec 5th - Applications due
 - Jan 30th - Virtual Matchmaking event

Life in Madison, WI



Famous Wisconsin Icons



Any Questions? Contact us!

badgerprep@vetmed.wisc.edu



<https://prep.cals.wisc.edu/>



PROPEL

Postbac Research Opportunity Scholar Information Session

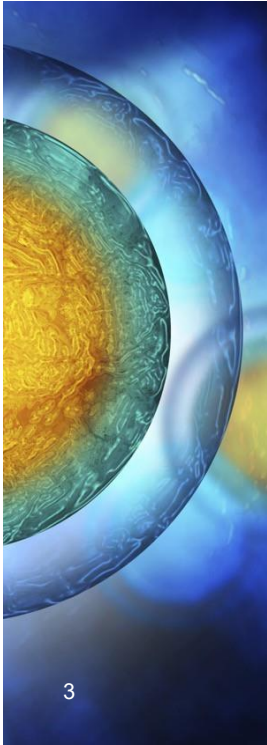
PRESENTED BY: JOYCE PIERETTI, PHD | PROGRAM MANAGER
CONTACT US: PREPTOGRAD@OHSU.EDU

NOV 14 2025



Welcome!

- About OHSU PROPEL
- Program benefits
- Program eligibility
- Program structure
- Application components
- Application timeline
- Q&A



About OHSU PROPEL

PROPEL is a **workforce training program** aimed at broadening access to careers in biomedical research. Our efforts involve broadening participation in STEM by creating safe and inclusive communities where postbacs can celebrate their achievements. We support OHSU RAs who are intent on earning a STEM PhD as part of their long-term career goals.

The primary aims of OHSU PROPEL are to:

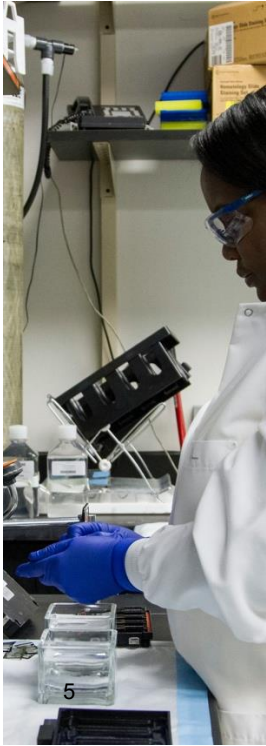
1. Provide transformative research experiences in a milestone-driven structure that closely mirrors the experiences of graduate students; and
2. Promote career exploration and long-term career self-efficacy by integrating a comprehensive mentor network and tailored career exploration strategies.

OHSU PROPEL activities promote scientific identity formation and empower scholars to effectively navigate their career transitions.

OHSU PROPEL Administration – People & Support



- **Bonnie Nagel, PhD** | Interim Chief Research Officer & Executive Vice President, OHSU Research & Innovation (Institutional support)
- **Letisha Wyatt, PhD** | Associate Professor of Neurology, PROPEL Co-Director
- **Gary Westbrook, MD** | Professor, Vollum Institute, PROPEL Co-Director
- **Joyce Pieretti, PhD** | OHSU PROPEL Program Manager
- Solve for Science | PROPEL National



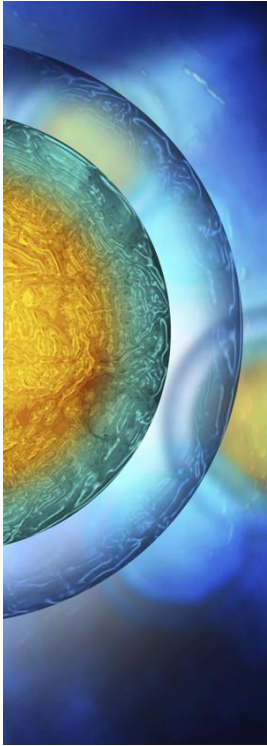
Program Benefits

- Individualized professional and career development plans for competitive graduate program application and admissions
- 1 year* of sustained research-intensive experience in an OHSU research lab
 - Flexible program timeline
- Mentorship from OHSU faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and current graduate students
- Short courses (weekly growth sessions), seminars, and workshops designed to address and overcome the aspects of the “hidden curriculum” in biomedical graduate education
- Personalized guidance for graduate program applications
- Community-building events and mentorship
- Career exploration opportunities
- Full-time salary and benefits covered by OHSU research mentor (PI)

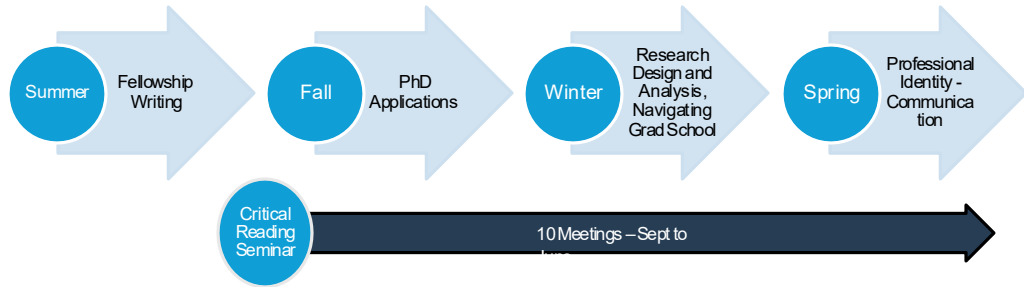


Program Eligibility

- Must be working as a full-time research assistant (e.g., Research Assistant 2, Senior Research Assistant) in the lab of an OHSU faculty member
 - Or actively in the hiring process
- Must have earned an undergraduate degree from a U.S.-based, accredited institution in a biomedically relevant discipline
- Be highly interested in pursuing a doctoral degree in biomedical science (PhD) or dual-degree (MD-PhD)
- Must commit to participating in program events for at least one academic year

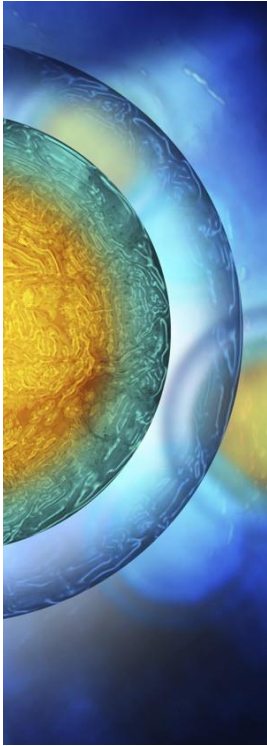


Program Structure

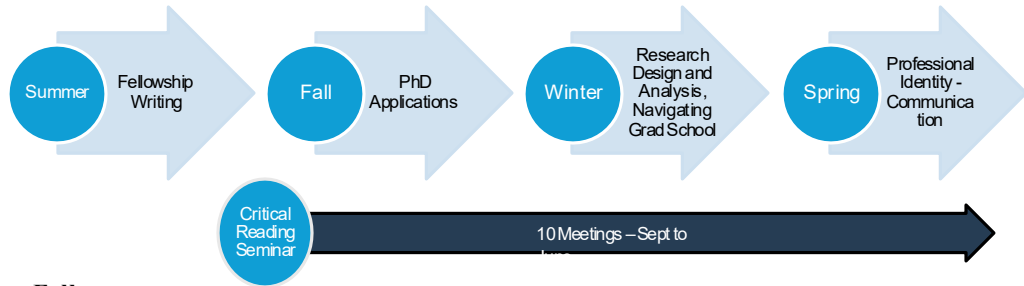


Summer:

- Orientation, Individual Development Plans (IDPs)
- Fellowship writing

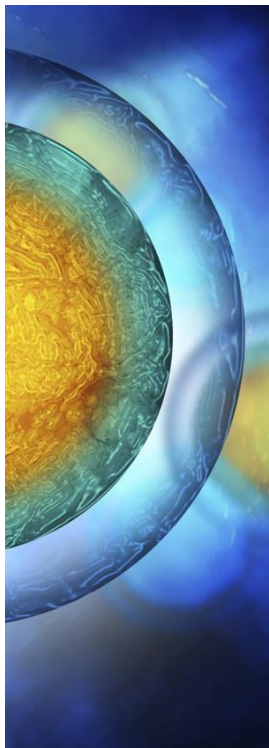


Program Structure

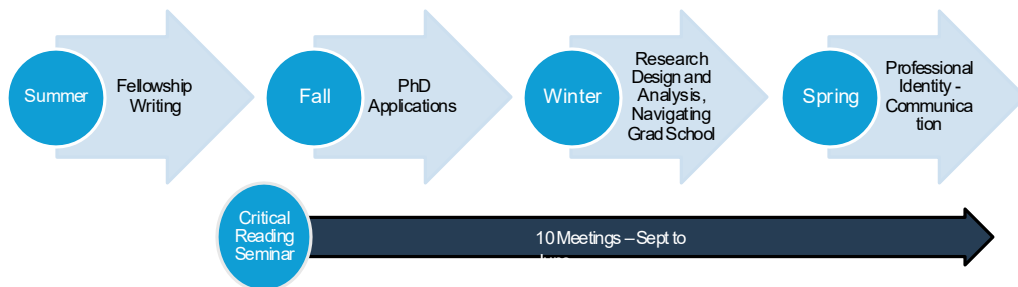


Fall:

- Growth sessions/short course – Graduate program applications
- Critical reading seminar - monthly
- Quarterly special topic lecture

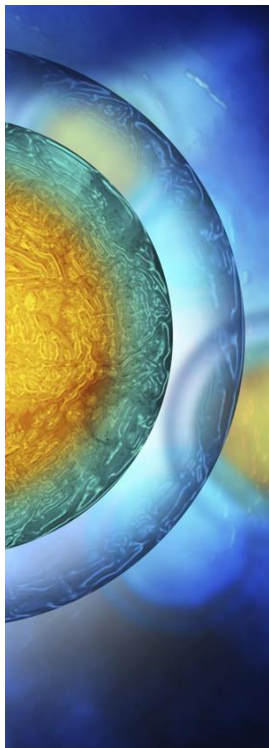


Program Structure

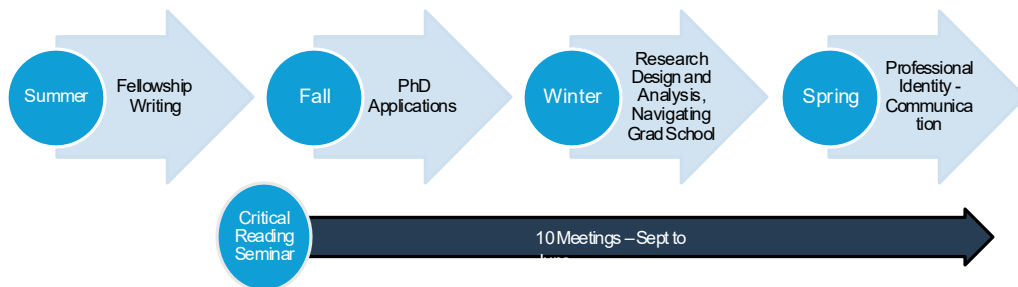


Winter:

- Short courses on (1) statistics and research design and (2) Navigating complexities of graduate school
- PhD interviews
- Critical reading seminar - monthly
- Quarterly special topic lecture



Program Structure



Spring:

- Growth sessions on scientific communication and professional identity
- Poster and oral presentations
- Reading seminar and special topic lecture
- Research paper completed



OHSU Graduate Programs and Departments:

- Biomedical Engineering Program
 - Neurocardiology, systems biology, cancer biology
- Neuroscience Graduate Program
 - Neurobiology of disease, synapses and circuits, neuron-glia signaling
- Behavioral & Systems Neuroscience
 - Learning and memory, circadian rhythms, addiction
- Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences
 - Immunology, infectious disease, microbiology
- Clinical Psychology
 - Neuroscience of mental health disorders, intervention development and evaluation

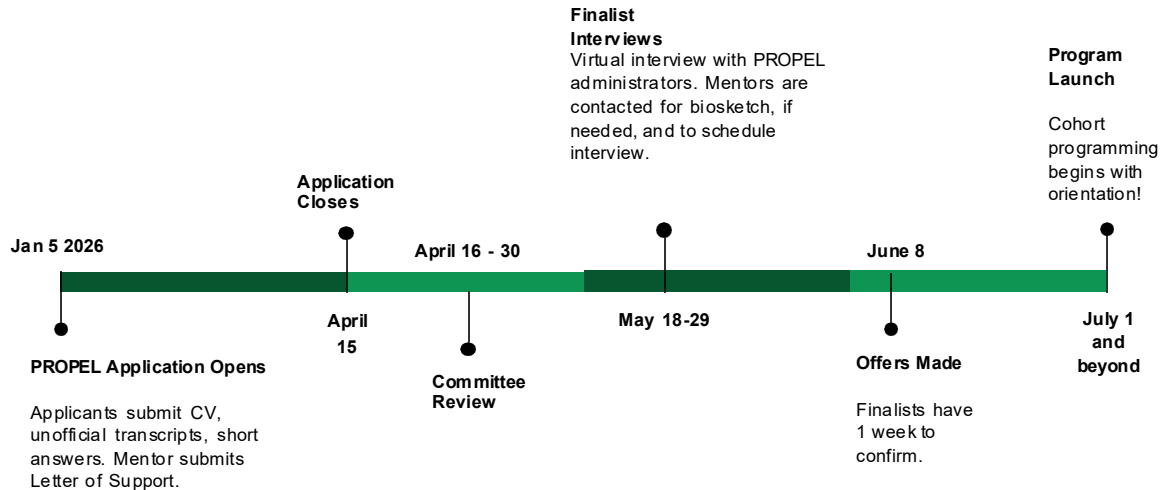
PROPEL can help you connect with faculty and events in OHSU graduate programs of interest

PROPEL Application Components



- Short answer questions
 - PhD program interests
- Letters of recommendation
 - Including letter of support from OHSU PI
- Transcripts, CV or resume
- Visit our website to stay up to date on application information
 - Full details available at: www.ohsu.edu/propel
 - Registration for information Sessions in Jan-Feb 2026

OHSU PROPEL Application Timeline





Question and Answer

- Please ask any questions!
- No judgement – If PROPEL isn't the right program for you, we might be able to point you in the right direction for other programs to look into!

Postbac Scholars at ABRCMS in Pittsburgh 2024





Eligibility:

- Secure a full-time position at UCSF
- US citizen/permanent resident
- Interested in pursuing a PhD degree in biomedical science
- One+ years commitment to the program

Questions? Contact propel@ucsf.edu

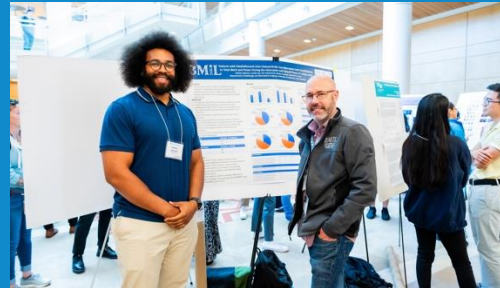
What we offer:

- A paid research experience (~\$55k+benefits) with laboratory mentorship at UCSF
- Career and professional development training sessions and preparation for graduate school application
- Cohort of 90+ peers in science

Process:

1. Find a full-time position at UCSF (via Matchmaking Event or your own job search) <https://propel.ucsf.edu/job-opportunities>
2. Apply at <https://propel.ucsf.edu/students>
3. Quarterly admissions March 1st, June 1st, Sept 1st, Dec 1st

In accordance with Federal and State law, we do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, health, or disability.



POSTBACS PROGRAMS AT UCSF

Both programs offer

- A paid research experience (~\$55k+benefits) with laboratory mentorship at UCSF
- Career and professional development training
- Graduate school application prep
- Cohort of 90+ peers in science



More flexible, program length up to scholar (generally ~2 years), MD/PhD support

Eligibility:

- Secure a full time position at UCSF
- US citizen/permanent resident
- Interested in pursuing a PhD degree in biomedical science (**MD/PhD ok**)
- One+ years commitment to the program

Process:

1. Find a full-time position at UCSF (via Matchmaking Event or your own job search) <https://propel.ucsf.edu/job-opportunities>
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PREP@UCSF

1-year program, more competitive application, paid conference attendance, no MD/PhD support

Eligibility:

- BS degree before July 1, 2026
- US citizen/permanent resident
- Interested in pursuing a PhD degree in biomedical science
- *Ready to apply to grad school fall 2026*

Process:

1. Apply at <https://postbac.ucsf.edu>
2. Interviews in March
3. Program start in June/July

Questions? Contact
Jessica.allen@ucsf.edu



VCU

Prep for PhD

In the Biomedical Sciences

Jumpstart your path to a PhD

through access to research mentorship, lab immersion, and tailored PhD prep over an intensive one-two year postbaccalaureate program for Full or Part-time Technicians.

- Hands-on mentored research in cutting-edge labs
- Mentorship from faculty experienced in supporting the journey into a PhD program
- Comprehensive PhD application support
- Topical content workshops to ensure a seamless transition into a PhD program.
- 2 hour a week in-person time commitment with meetings scheduled during the lunch hour.

For more information, email
Rebecca.Martin@vcuhealth.org



PROPEL NW VIRTUAL MATCHMAKING EVENT

Interested in
conducting
research at UW or
a UW partner
institution?

You are invited to connect with faculty looking to hire postbaccalaureate research scientists to perform research and participate in PROPEL NW.



Successful faculty-trainee
matches can apply for the
postbaccalaureate training
program, PROPEL NW!



Who? Trainees with a bachelors' degree by June 2026



What? Chat with faculty members with similar research interests for 10 minutes and make a match!



**Important
dates:**



Where? Zoom!

Faculty Info session Matchmaking Event
Feb. 13, 2025 April 20, 2026
1 - 2pm PST 9:30am - 1pm PST

Trainee Info
session
Feb. 13, 2025
12 - 1pm PST

Register for
event by
March 20,
2026

