



# STEP-UP

The STEP-UP (Short-Term Research Experience for Underrepresented Persons) Program provides hand-on summer research experiences for undergraduate students interested in exploring research careers. STEP-UP is supported by the Office of Minority Health Research Coordination (OMHRC) in the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).



National Institute of  
Diabetes and Digestive  
and Kidney Diseases



**Want to learn more?**  
For more information and to access the online application, please visit:  
[www.stepup.niddk.nih.gov](http://www.stepup.niddk.nih.gov)

The overall goal of STEP-UP is to build and sustain a biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social science research pipeline focused on NIDDK's core mission areas of diabetes, endocrinology and metabolic diseases; digestive diseases and nutrition; kidney, urologic and hematologic diseases.

## Program Highlights

- 8 to 12-weeks of full-time research experience
- Students receive a summer research stipend of \$4,500.00
- Students are assigned to a STEP-UP Coordinating Center to help coordinate and monitor their summer research experience
- Students are paired with experienced research mentors at institutions throughout the nation
- Students receive training in the responsible conduct of research
- All-paid travel expenses to the Annual STEP-UP Research Symposium held on NIH's main campus in Bethesda, Maryland where students are given the opportunity to conduct a formal oral and poster presentation.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a Coordinating Center (CC)?

Students are assigned to a coordinating center after they are accepted into the program. A CC serves as the STEP-UP student's primary contact for any administrative or programmatic needs during the summer research experience. The coordinating center will provide direct oversight for all student activities.

### I do not live close to any of the coordinating centers. Can I still participate in the program?

Yes. Students do not have to live near one of the coordinating centers. Students can and are encouraged to conduct research at institutions near their homes or wherever they will be residing during the summer. Students DO NOT have to conduct their research at the coordinating center.

### Where do I conduct my research?

Students work with their CC to identify and secure a research institution and research mentor. We recommend that students conduct research at institutions within commuting distances of their homes. Undergraduate students who are interested in conducting research at an institution not in proximity to their home must make their own housing and transportation arrangements.

### I do not live close to a college or university. Can I conduct my research at another location?

Yes. Students can conduct research at institutions other than colleges or universities. For example, students can conduct research at hospitals, departments of public health, private research institutions, etc.

### Is housing provided?

No. All housing costs must be paid for by the student. STEP-UP does not provide a separate housing stipend.

The application for the 2016 Program will be open from November 15th, 2015 to February 15th, 2016. To access the application and find out more information, please visit our website.



Web: [www.stepup.niddk.nih.gov](http://www.stepup.niddk.nih.gov)  
Email: [niddkstepup@mail.nih.gov](mailto:niddkstepup@mail.nih.gov)  
Ph: 301.443.8415

## Eligibility

STEP-UP is particularly interested in increasing the participation of students from backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical research on a national basis, including individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, and individuals with disabilities. For more information on eligibility requirements, please visit our website.