University of Michigan Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program

The University of Michigan has an NIH-funded Post-baccalaureate Research Education Program (PREP) designed to help underrepresented students who want to enter doctoral programs prepare to apply to excellent Ph.D. programs in the biological and biomedical sciences. We are seeking students who have great potential to succeed in graduate school in the sciences, but for some reason are not quite ready to tackle the combined academic and research challenges of a doctoral program as the next step in their education. Often we expect these students will have discovered an interest in experimental science late in their undergraduate careers, or even after they graduated, and so have less extensive research experience. Since most graduate programs in the sciences now consider significant prior research essential to understanding the rigors of graduate school and a career in science, a year of post-baccalaureate research can make a significant difference in the ability of students to matriculate into and succeed in a graduate program. In some other cases, students may have research experience, but have specific deficiencies in their academic backgrounds that diminish their qualification for graduate school. These students will be able to undertake additional course work while enhancing their research credentials in our PREP program.

Up to nine applicants will be selected to enter the program on July 1, 2012. During the first month of study PREP directors will help students match with faculty mentors in a large number of bioscience fields. Over 150 University of Michigan faculty members are available to mentor PREP students for one year research experiences, including helping guide them through the graduate school application process. All admitted students receive tuition support for one course per term, a salary ($21,000), and benefits including health and dental insurance. In addition to research, PREP students have opportunities to participate in a variety of activities designed to help prepare them for graduate school applications:

- a preparation course for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) (offered during the first summer following matriculation) as well as a discount on the exam fee
- orientation and social activities
- seminars and journal clubs
- possibility to enhance the program with UM coursework as advised by the PREP Directors
- regular group meetings in their mentors’ research laboratories to present research projects and discuss graduate school/career advice with the Directors and their mentoring committees
- other career development events of interest to graduate students and postdoctoral scholars

In addition to structured and informal advising by the PREP faculty, the Association of Multicultural Scientists and other graduate student organizations on campus will serve as peer mentors to interested PREP students, facilitating the process of successful application to graduate school.
The University of Michigan is one of the largest and best-funded research universities in the country. PREP faculty mentors are drawn from six schools and colleges on the Ann Arbor campus - including Literature, Science & the Arts, Medicine, Engineering, Pharmacy, Kinesiology, and Public Health. A more complete listing of faculty research interests can be found on the PREP web site (www.med.umich.edu/prep). Beyond the scientific environment, the University of Michigan is ranked as one of the world’s great universities, providing a wide array of state-of-the-art facilities and internationally recognized scholarship. The impressive strength and diversity of music, theater and the arts as well as sporting events help make Ann Arbor one of the nicest locations in the country – routinely listed as one of the top 10 places to live by national magazines. Whether a student stays at the University of Michigan for graduate school or moves on to another institution, we are confident that they will enjoy a year in Ann Arbor.

Applications to the 2012-2013 Michigan PREP will be accepted until April 21, 2012. For more information on participant eligibility and how to apply, please direct your student(s) to the PREP web site.

The PREP admissions/advisory committee will offer admission to the program on a rolling basis until all of the positions are filled.

If you have any questions or require additional information on our program, please contact us by e-mail at m-prep@umich.edu or call (734-647-5773) to speak to Joshua Meisler, the coordinator of the Michigan PREP or email Kate Barald, the program director, at kfbarald@umich.edu.

Kate F. Barald Ph.D., Professor and Program Director
Joshua Meisler, Program Coordinator
960 Taubman Medical Library
1150 W. Medical Center Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0619