Beckman Scholars Program Information for Students

The Beckman Scholars Program is designed to identify and mentor promising young scientists who will be future leaders in the scientific community. The program will provide a unique, challenging, and supportive environment for the professional and intellectual growth of the Beckman Scholars.

Being selected as a Beckman Scholar is a major national recognition of a student’s accomplishments and promise. Only 12 schools have new Beckman Scholar Programs this year – Trinity and 11 others. Each Beckman scholar will receive $18,200 in stipends: 2 summer stipends of $6,800 and an academic year stipend of $4600. These stipends are in addition to any Financial Aid you might already receive.

Beyond stipend support, Beckman Scholars will have access to $2800 to support travel to professional conferences and research supplies / expenditures. The Mentor is also provided with access to some supply money as well. They will also attend the Beckman Scholars Annual Research Symposium in Irvine, CA at the end of the summers that they do research, where they will have an opportunity to interact with some of the best Chemistry and Biology faculty in the world, as well as with other Beckman Scholars from around the country.

Being named a Beckman Scholar is a substantial honor, and Beckman Scholars will be expected to focus on research during term. Scholars will register for 2 credits of research (12-15 hours per week) each semester during the academic year, as well as for an appropriate seminar course in Biology or Chemistry. Beckman Scholars will participate in some of the leadership training experiences offered by the student success center. The opportunities will include one on one coaching as well as participation in leadership training events.

The Beckman Scholars will meet with the Beckman Program Director (PD), Laura Hunsicker-Wang, at the middle of the summer and each academic semester to discuss their progress. (In the case where the PD is the Mentor, a secondary Mentor will be chosen from the Beckman Mentor list) There will also be a meeting of all Trinity Beckman Scholars and their advisors during each summer and at least once in the academic year. These Beckman Group meetings will begin with a lunch and will be followed by the Scholars presenting their latest research, and they will describe their upcoming work, and report on their progress towards publishing their results.

Beckman Scholars will be provided with substantial opportunities to regularly each lunch with the seminar speakers that visit in the chemistry, biology, and neuroscience seminar programs. Scholars will also meet with McGavock lecturers to discuss their research and with any other visiting scientists as is appropriate. This will provide young researchers with opportunities to tune their presentation and “scientific conversation” skills.

Beckman Scholars will also be “ambassadors of research”. In this role, the Scholars will attend national or regional meetings to present the results of their research, as is appropriate and determined by the Project Mentor. In addition, the Scholars will also be asked to recruit the next year’s Beckman Scholars by speaking to the sophomore classes in the chemistry and biology departments in the following year.
Sounds Great … Now What?

The minimum qualifications for Beckman Scholars are:

- Sophomore or junior standing with a declared major in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, biochemistry/molecular biology or neuroscience.
- Grade point average of 3.6 or higher overall and in courses in science and mathematics (4.0 scale).
- Must be a US citizen or permanent resident

Selection Process

Beckman Scholars must be mentored by one of the 14 biology and chemistry faculty who participated in the grant (see list below). If you are interested in becoming a Beckman Scholar, you should talk with these faculty about possible research projects immediately. In most cases, this will be your current research advisor; if you are not currently in a research group, you should talk to at least three faculty whose research areas interest you. You and the faculty member will develop a research plan over the next several weeks.

To apply for a Beckman Scholarship, you will need to fill out the application form and provide statements on your research and career interests and experiences (details on the form). There is also a writing assignment for you to complete as an INDIVIDUAL. You will also need two letters of recommendation from faculty members (other than your research mentor) sent to Dr. Hunsicker-Wang and an academic transcript (TigerPaws print-out is fine). Lastly, there is a research plan that you and your Mentor will develop that includes your proposed research. Your mentor will also submit an updated mentoring plan and a publication plan.

A committee will select finalists from the applicants and conduct interviews. During the interview, the applicant will give a short presentation on the proposed research. The applicant will also answer any questions or complete any other request by the committee during the application process. After the interviews, the Scholars will be chosen by the committee.

Possible Beckman Mentors:
Beckman Scholars must work with a Beckman Mentor. The Beckman Mentors include Profs. Bert Chandler, Kelvin Cheng, Christina Cooley, Frank Healy, Laura Hunsicker-Wang, Michele Johnson, Jonathan King, Corina Maeder, Troy Murphy, Kim Phillips, Chris Pursell, David Ribble, Jim Shinkle and Adam Urbach.