
University of Illinois Short-Term Research Training Program (SRTP)*

Medical Student (M1) Research Opportunity, Summer 2026

The University of Illinois Short-Term Research Training Program (SRTP) provides first-year medical students with a two-month mentored research experience in the mission areas of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). These mission areas include kidney diseases, urological diseases, hematological diseases, digestive diseases, nutrition, diabetes, endocrinology, and metabolic diseases.

The SRTP program brings together an outstanding team of established and emerging mentors with expertise in basic/mechanistic, clinical/translational, and behavioral/community-based research, spanning the NIDDK mission areas. This program is based at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. It is open to all **year one medical students in the summer between years 1 and 2**. Eligible applicants must not be enrolled in any other course work during the period of June 29, 2026 – August 21, 2026.

In addition to mentored research, students will meet in person, three times a week, to participate in an interactive structured curriculum focused on research methodology, responsible conduct of research, and career development. To learn the principles of rigor and reproducibility and develop presentation skills, students will co-lead with a research mentor, work-in-progress seminars, and journal club sessions. Though the program lasts two months, the SRTP will foster continued research involvement after the program ends.

Students must choose a research mentor from a list of faculty associated with the program that can be found via the following link: [faculty mentor](#). A selection committee will review the applications and select the most qualified student applicants to fill 15 fellowship positions.

Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Completion of the first year of medical school by the start of the program (June 29, 2026)
- Not be enrolled in any other course work during the period of June 29, 2026 – August 21, 2026.
- Can participate in person, on the UIC campus, three times a week, for the full duration of the program.

Application Deadline: Monday, March 2, 2026

Program Dates: June 29, 2026 – August 21, 2026

Stipend: Students will receive a summer stipend as dictated by the NIH, \$4,798

During the SRTP you will be required to:

- Identify and set defined expectations/goals with your [faculty mentor](#) for the summer research experience.
- Meet with faculty mentor weekly to review progress and receive direction.
- Complete any required [IRB](#) or [IACUC](#) applications for research involving humans or vertebrate animals and any additional training required by your mentor.
- Spend 40 hrs. per week engaged in active research.
- Participate in all team activities associated with your mentor's research (group meetings, journal clubs, etc.).
- Participate in all scheduled, in person, SRTP curricular conferences including journal club, works-in progress, and core curricular topics sessions. No exceptions will be made to the in-person component of the program.
- Complete a 15-minute oral presentation on your proposed research to the faculty for feedback and critique at the conclusion of the program.
- Students will also be required to present an abstract at the annual COM Research Day in Fall of 2026 (post program).

*****External Applicants – You must provide a letter from your Dean/Advisor confirming you will not be enrolled in course work during the summer program period, BEFORE contacting a mentor.**

University of Illinois Short-Term Research Training Program SRTTP Components of the Application

1. **Application Cover Page** – Please see page 3 for the blank application cover page.
2. **Research proposal** 3-4 pages in length, followed by a bibliography.
 - The research proposal should include the following elements:
 - Title/Header: title of the proposal, student name, T35 research mentor’s name, department
 - Specific Aims: principal aim(s) of the research project; a summary of the questions the student will ask and the methods that will be used.
 - Background and significance: information to help the reviewer understand the context of the questions the student is asking and why they are important, as well as the clinical and/or basic science significance of anticipated outcome(s).
 - Methods: Detail how the research will be conducted, resources needed, timeline and benchmarks to be achieved during the summer program.
 - Project Goals beyond the summer
3. **Letter of support from mentor** which should include the following information:
 - Skills that the student will acquire with his/her work during the program.
 - Prior experience track record in mentoring.
 - Plan for supervision, including frequency of meetings, how progress will be assessed, and how feedback will be provided to trainees.
4. **Personal statement** describing how the program will affect professional development (one-page limit).
5. **Applicant’s resume/curriculum vitae** including prior research experience.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

The COMPLETE application must be submitted by **Monday, March 2, 2026 at 5:00pm**, via email to Natalie Meza at nmeza1@uic.edu. When submitting your applications, please make sure to follow these instructions:

1. All documents should be compiled into one document and sent as a PDF. Multiple submissions of different application components, nor paper copy submissions, will be accepted.
2. Your email subject line for the application submission and application document should be named as follows: **LastName.FirstName_SRTTP 2026 Application**.
3. All necessary signatures **MUST** be present on the submitted application cover page in order to be considered.

For questions or assistance with submission process, please reach out to Natalie Meza at nmeza1@uic.edu.

**University of Illinois SRTP
APPLICATION COVER PAGE**

Part I) Student Information

Name: _____ **Signature** _____ **Date:** _____

University Email: _____ **Non University Email:** _____ **Cell:** _____

=

Part II) Sponsor's Statement

I have reviewed the attached proposal and consider it feasible and worthwhile. I have an active laboratory/research portfolio and am able to provide space for the student's research project.

I will help the student prepare to present for the COM Research Forum and ensure that the student fulfills all requirements of this fellowship.

Printed Name of Research Advisor

Department of Research Advisor

Signature of Research Advisor

Phone Number

E-mail address

=

Part III Human & Animal Rights Approval Check all that apply - My research requires approval of :

_____ None

_____ Institutional Review Board IRB

_____ UIC's Animal Care Committee (ACC)

_____ Other approval body, please specify: _____

(Part IV) Eligibility Requirements Check all that apply – By submitting this application, I certify that I:

_____ am a U.S. citizen or permanent resident

_____ will have completed the first year of medical school by the start of the program (June 2026)

_____ will not be enrolled in any other course work during the period of June 29, 2026 – August 21, 2026.

_____ will participate in person, on the UIC campus, three times a week, for the full duration of the program.