James Scholar Program

Program Description

The James Scholar for Independent Study Program (JS/ISP) focuses on supporting and refining research skills among medical students as they develop into physicians and clinical professionals. The James Scholar Program is designed to support outstanding medical student research posters at Departmental and College of Medicine events, presentations at abstracted scientific conferences and academic meetings, publication of research papers, and other significant contributions related to professional development.

JSP activities and student evaluations across all three of the University of Illinois College of Medicine regional campuses are designed to enhance student experiences at each campus, as well as combine efforts to create a tri-campus student and faculty learning community. It is expected that all JSP students will participate in these individual and tri-campus activities.

Chicago Campus JSP Applications

Students on the Chicago Campus interested in applying to be James Scholars should actively be engaged in research at the time of application as well as be in good academic standing. Research activities should be with well-established academic faculty, having initiated these activities in the summer prior to their M2 year. It is recommended that applicants have developed a relationship with a faculty researcher who can serve as a mentor over the course of program participation; this is not a requirement. Students interested in identifying research mentors can contact the JSP Program Director.

Only complete applications are reviewed by a committee made up of UIC faculty.

James Scholar Program Selection Criteria (Chicago Campus)

1. Good academic standing (promotion to M2 means most are in good academic standing)[a]
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV), prior research experience should be mentioned, described
3. Personal statement (detail how being in the program will affect professional development)
4. Project Abstract
5. Summary of research project
6. Recommendation letter

[a] *In the event that students have considerations related to academic standing in the future (e.g., repeating a year), requirements to complete or continue in JSP will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.*

Benefits of Being a James Scholar

The James Scholar Program is for high-ability students so they can develop valuable skills in leadership, research, creativity, and service-learning. A James Scholar is an elite student designation identifying individuals with high-level research interest and abilities.

James Scholars:
- Represent less than 10% of each class.
- Receive credits for independent research.
- Receive James Scholar designation in the Commencement Program at graduation.
- Receive Honors recognition on official transcripts.
- Receive special notation on the first page of their Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) in the Noteworthy Characteristics section.
- Represent diverse, stimulating medical student researchers.
- Foster close relationships with research and clinical faculty members that enrich their education and lead to future opportunities.
- Do not receive funding or stipends.

James Scholar Program Requirements (Chicago Campus)

The James Scholar Program provides students with opportunities to establish relationships with faculty mentors that promote longitudinal research programs during the M2-M4 years. As such, the JSP has requirements for program participants.

1. **A brief summary of progress each semester**. This can be a page or less and include research activities, program accomplishments, and other milestones. Students also may report that their progress was primarily ongoing in biannual semester reports.

2. **Participation in a peer-reviewed abstract/poster research event**. In particular, students are encouraged to participate in the College of Medicine Research Forum, Departmental research events, and other student and trainee venues. Students also can work with mentors to develop posters for submission to professional meetings. At this time, there are no financial resources to support JSP students' travel.

3. **A final report due on or before March 31 of the student's M4 year**.

JSP Application Scoring - 100 total points:

Cover Letter	Acknowledges that the proposal was written by the applicant as primary author and that AI or other internet-based writing programs were not used in the development of the application.	0 points
Curriculum Vitae (CV)	CVs or resumes should be *limited to 2 pages* & highlight prior research experience.	5 points
Personal Statement	20 points total for these 3 topics, *1 page*: 1. Summary of interest in research. 2. Detailing how participation will directly affect professional development. 3. Plan for continuity.	20 points total
Project Abstract	150 words or less	5 points
Summary of Research Project	Materials not to exceed <u>5 single spaced</u> pages. List references on the last page; it does not count toward the 5 page limit. Margins not smaller than ½ inch, and minimum 11-point font (Arial recommended). *Recommended Sections:* 1. Literature Review 2. Current Level of Collaboration 3. Proposed Methods 4. Relevant Analytic/Evaluation Strategies 5. Anticipated Results & Outcomes 6. Planned Outputs (e.g., COM poster, paper) 7. Sustainability into Professional Career	55 points total
Recommendation Letter	Letter of support from your research mentor, *not to exceed 2 pages*. 1. Summary of Collaboration 2. Role in Supporting Student 3. How Project Extends Previous Work	15 points

James Scholar Zoom Information Sessions & Application Timeline

DATE	TIME	DAY	WHAT'S HAPPENING
9/23/24	8:00 AM	Monday	Informational Meeting Option #1 Zoom 867 4643 7317 Pass: 30176691
9/24/24	12:15 PM	Tuesday	Informational Meeting Option #2 CMWT 429
9/26/24	12:00 PM	Thursday	Informational Meeting Option #3 Zoom 867 3761 9096 Pass: 86942972
9/12/24		Thursday	Request for Applications (RFA) Announced
10/1-10/11/24		Via Email/Zoom	**Optional** Review of Draft Applications by Dr. Razzano
10/21/24	12:00 PM	Monday	Receipt of Completed JSP Applications
10/22-10/23/24		Tuesday & Wednesday	Initial Application Packet & Materials Review
10/24/24		Thursday	Distribute Applications to Faculty Reviewers
12/3/24		Tuesday	Faculty Reviews Completed & Returned
12/3-12/10/24		Tuesday - Tuesday	Final Reviews Completed
12/11/24		Wednesday	Candidates Notified of Results
General JS/ISP Scholar Requirements			
Fall & Spring Semesters	Within 10 Working Days of 1st Days of Classes	Variable	Biannual Semester Progress Reports
Final M4/Graduating Semester	March 31 of M4 Year	Variable	Final Progress Reports for Graduating M4s

Contact

Questions feel free to contact Dr. Lisa Razzano, Professor of Psychiatry, Director of the James Scholar Program for Chicago, via email at razzano@uic.edu.

Email completed applications or address additional questions to Kelly Lynn Hogan, Phase 2/3 Coordinator, klhogan@uic.edu, or at (312) 355-0521.