Are you an undergraduate student who is interested in learning more about what it means to be a physician-scientist?

The UM-SMART program offers students an opportunity to participate in biomedical research and gain exposure to clinical medicine at Michigan Medicine, a highly ranked academic medical center with top-10 funding from the National Institutes of Health.

As a UM-SMART summer research fellow, you will work full-time in a basic research laboratory under the mentorship of a research faculty member. Participating in UM-SMART may help you decide if this is the right career path for you and could enhance your competitiveness when applying to MD/PhD programs.

Our 10-week program is aimed at students who have some amount of basic and mechanistic research experience related to medicine and are interested in gaining more experience to advance their career goals. UM-SMART is not intended for students seeking clinical research experience on human subjects.

The UM-SMART Program is designed for students who want to:

- Perform full-time research under the direction of a faculty mentor in a research laboratory.
- Receive a stipend of $4,400 plus double-occupancy dormitory housing on campus. Breakfast and dinner are provided by the University of Michigan’s Meal Service. Transportation costs up to $200 are reimbursed with receipts.
- Gain clinical exposure by participating in two half-day physician shadowing experiences.
- Attend the 3-day annual MSTP scientific retreat including participation in a poster session.
- Participate in self-paced online MCAT preparation.
- Connect with a “Big Sib” student advisor who is currently in the MSTP.
- Participate in a poster session on campus with undergraduate students from other University of Michigan biomedical research summer programs.
- Gain exposure to biomedical research by attending weekly scientific seminars.

"This experience helped tremendously in providing me with the necessary information to decide if an MSTP is the right path. It provided not only the opportunity to conduct full-time research, but also gave me opportunities to shadow physicians, have an MSTP student mentor, attend one-on-one meetings with other MD/PhD faculty in the University, and learn more about the admissions process.

Stephanie, University of Puerto Rico

Program Dates:  
May 28 – August 4, 2019  
Application Opens:  
October 15, 2018  
Application Deadline:  
January 18, 2019
Eligibility
Applicants must come from an educational, cultural or geographic background that is underrepresented in the sciences, or have experienced financial hardship as a result of family economic circumstances, or have a physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Additionally, applicants must:
- Be a current undergraduate student (completed sophomore year by June 1, 2019). We do not accept students who are applying to medical or graduate school in 2018 for possible admission in 2019.
- Be a US citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Completed a physiology, biology, biochemistry or organic chemistry course, preferably with lab.
- Have at least 100 hours of experience in a research lab by June 1, 2019. (This is in addition to completing the lab associated with a science course.)
- Submit two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a research mentor or the instructor of a laboratory course.
- Maintain a 3.2 cumulative grade point average.
- Show proof of health insurance.

The UM-SMART program is sponsored by the MSTP at the University of Michigan, a NIH-funded combined MD/PhD training program. MSTP graduates typically establish careers in academic medicine focused on basic research relevant to human disease. Clinical medicine generally is a small component of the MD/PhD career and serves primarily to inform and enhance the research.

All application materials must be received by January 18, 2019: michmed.org/um-smart

“Coming into the program, I was on the fence about whether or not I wanted to pursue an MD/PhD or just a PhD. Research was never out of the question for me, but I was scared about going into medicine because I know that it is a very taxing field. I’ve been able to shadow some wonderful physicians who said it is all worth it when they see their patients living a better quality of life. This reminded me of what I loved about exploring medicine as part of my career in the first place.”

Jordan, University of Michigan