

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE PEORIA

**Carrie M. Craig Fellowship for
Medical Student Summer Research 2021**

The purpose of the Carrie M. Craig medical student summer research fellowship program is to enable medical students who are interested in research to conduct projects during the summer months under the guidance of faculty on the Peoria campus of the University Of Illinois College Of Medicine (UICOMP). Students with no prior research experience are especially encouraged to apply. Each student will identify a research sponsor and mentor (or one will be identified for you) who agrees to supervise the student's project during the summer months and whose department agrees to provide half of the student's stipend. Craig fellows are required to submit abstracts for either the college-wide UICOM Research Day or the regional UICOMP Research Day in Peoria. In addition, all Craig fellows must submit a final written report summarizing their findings. The research mentor will ensure fulfillment of all the requirements of this fellowship including submission of the abstract and final written report. Students must apply for Craig fellowships on the campus where their research will take place even if it differs from the campus where they take courses. Students must choose a research mentor that has a faculty appointment with UICOMP.

Eligibility: UICOMP students only (MD/PhD students are not eligible)

Only students who are academically eligible will be considered for a Craig fellowship. Students who are required to take summer make-up examinations are ineligible. You may only participate in one summer fellowship program. Students must be active and not on a leave of absence.

Application w/CV Deadline: Monday March 8th, 2021, 5PM CST - Students interested in applying should complete the top portion of the attached application form and send it with a CV, to Bonnie Willis in the Office of Academic Affairs (bwillis@uic.edu) by 5PM CST on Monday March 8th, 2021.

The Craig Scholars selection committee will review the application to make the final selection of the candidates. The committee will help facilitate connections with research mentors and students applicants. Interested research mentors will review student CVs and reach out to those whose research interests align with the research of their lab, clinical trial or other areas of interest including simulation. The Peoria campus can support up to **seven** Craig fellows.

Eligibility	Academically eligible UICOMP students
Application Deadline	March 8, 2021
Appointment Period:	June 2021 - August 2021
Appointment Status:	Research Assistant
Stipend:	\$2,700 (\$1,350/month) a 33% time effort \$1,350 (\$675/month) from Dean's Office \$1,350 (\$675/month) from Sponsoring Department

Anticipated Fellowship Announcement: April 2021

Program Requirements:

I. All awardees will be required to submit a final research report signed by their research advisor by 5PM CST on Monday October 4, 2021.

The report should summarize the status of the project and include:

- projected completion date (if not yet completed)
- significant findings, lack of results and/or any incomplete research
- list of any abstracts or publications that may result

Final reports should be no longer than 2 pages single spaced in length, and will be submitted directly to Bonnie Willis in the Office of Academic Affairs, by email (bwillis@uic.edu) or delivered in person to the Office of Academic Affairs at UICOMP.

FORMAT FOR FINAL REPORTS:

1. Include your name, your research mentor's name, the title of the project and the year you were awarded the fellowship.

2. The research question you addressed and the significance of this question.
3. The methods you used and the results you obtained.
4. Your conclusions from these results and their significance.
5. State whether you will submit an abstract and present a poster at Research Day. If you feel you cannot present a poster at Research Day, please explain why.
6. Your research mentor must sign this report.

II. Fellows will also be required to submit an abstract for either the UICOM Research Day in Fall of 2021 or the UICOMP Research Day in Spring of 2022.

Students unable to present a poster due to insufficient data must address this in their final report.

III. Failure to submit these reports and participate in the either Research Day (without adequate reason) will result in no mention of the student's participation in this program on the student's Medical Student Performance Evaluation for residencies.

CRAIG FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION

THE APPLICATION includes four parts and must be typewritten.

1. The attached four-part cover page completed by the Student, the Research Mentor, the department Business Manager.
2. A research proposal 3-4 pages in length followed by a bibliography (not included in page limits).
3. Your resume/CV.
4. Include 1-2 paragraphs explaining why you are interested in doing a research project for your personal and professional development. If you have had any previous research experience, explain why this fellowship offers unique opportunities not afforded in your previous experience. *If you have not had prior research experience, please state this (students without research experience are encouraged to apply).*

RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORMAT

Describe your role in the proposed research project. Limit your response to 3-4 pages (single spaced). You should also attach a bibliography list to your research proposal. Failure to comply with page limits or include all parts of the application will result in your proposal being administratively withdrawn.

Your Research Proposal should include:

1. **Cover Page** - the title of your proposal, your name, research mentor's name and department to which they belong.
2. **Specific Aims** - a summary of the questions you will ask and the methods you will use.
3. **Background and Significance** - information to help the reviewer understand the context of the questions you are asking and why they are important.
4. **Experimental Methods and Anticipated Outcomes for each Specific Aim** - provide details about the methods you will use, how they will answer your questions and what information you expect to obtain.
5. **Timeline** – provide a tentative plan stating when the different steps and goals of your proposal will be completed. The goals of your proposal should be met within the time of the fellowship.
6. **Program Mentorship** (To be completed by Mentor/PI)- please describe the skills that the student will acquire with his/her work during the proposed Craig Fellowship. Additionally, please specify who will actually be supervising the student, i.e. the PI, fellow, other faculty member, etc., as well as the frequency of follow ups and whether the meeting will be in person or via phone, email, etc. or a combination.

The following review criteria will be used to judge proposals

- a. Clear and testable hypothesis
- b. Design adequate to answer hypothesis
- c. Completed project will be publishable or suitable for presentation at a professional meeting
- d. Tasks at appropriate level for M1/M2 student
- e. Project can be completed within the time frame of the program
- f. Project provides a "learning experience" for the student

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Applications must be legibly printed or typed – APPLICATION deadline is 5PM CST on Monday March 8th, 2021. Student Affairs or Academic Advisors will complete the Office of Student Affairs section at the bottom of the Application Cover Page (Part IV).

For questions related to the Craig Fellowship, or for assistance with the submission process, please reach out to either Dr. Andrew Darr (adarr@uic.edu) or Bonnie Willis (bwillis@uic.edu).

Sample Research Proposal Form:

The Role of XYZ in Breast Cancer
Applicant: Susan Jones
Sponsor: Dr. Joseph Smith
Department: Medicine

Specific Aims (1/2 page)

Recent studies in mice have implicated XYZ in promoting several types of cancer including breast cancer. In particular, Jackson et al. demonstrated..... I will study the impact of knocking down the XYZ protein in the human breast cancer cell line, AAA. State a hypothesis. I hypothesize that decreasing XYZ expression in human breast cancer cells will inhibit both their growth and motility. My specific aims are:

Aim I. Knockdown XYZ in AAA cells. Briefly describe method (siRNA?) and how you will determine whether the expression of XYZ is decreased or eliminated. 2-3 sentences.

Aim II. Test the impact of XYZ knockdown on AAA cell growth and motility. Briefly describe how you will evaluate impact on cell growth and assay for changes in motility. 2-3 sentences.

Background and Significance (1 page)

Describe what XYZ is and what evidence has been gathered suggesting that it is involved in breast cancer. Describe what the AAA cells are and why they are a good model. What common assays exist for evaluating cancer cells? Finally, why is this research and the anticipated outcomes significant?

Experimental Methods and Anticipated Outcomes (1.5 pages)

Aim I. Knockdown XYZ in AAA human breast cancer cells. Provide experimental details and what you will expect to see, and if the method does not work, an alternative approach.

Aim II. Test the impact of XYZ knockdown on AAA cell growth and motility. Provide experimental details and what you will expect to see, and if the method does not work, an alternative approach.

APPLICATION – COVER PAGE
CARRIE M. CRAIG FELLOWSHIP FOR
MEDICAL STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE - PEORIA

(Part I) Student Information

NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

CLASS: _____ PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL: _____

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(Part II) Research Advisor's Statement

I have reviewed the attached proposal and consider it feasible and worthwhile. I am able to commit funds for one half of the student's summer stipend. I have an active laboratory and am able to provide space for the student's research project. **I will help the student prepare and submit an abstract for the UICOM or UICOMP Research Day and ensure that the student fulfills all requirements of this fellowship including the final summary.**

Printed Name of Research Advisor

Department of Research Advisor

Signature of Research Advisor

Phone number

E-mail address

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(Part III) Business Manager *(This section must be filled out by the department's designated Business Manager, otherwise it will not be accepted as a complete application.)*

Printed Name of Dept. Business Manager

Source of Advisor's Funds (Include C-FOAP #)

Signature of Dept. Business Manager

Phone number

E-mail address

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(Part IV) COMPLETED BY OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

- Students who fail courses that require make-ups are not eligible.
- Students may only participate in one summer fellowship program.
- Students must be active and not on a leave of absence.

The above named student: **IS** academically eligible. **IS NOT** academically eligible.

Signature:

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Date: