
For Program acceptance consideration, students must meet these criteria:

- Identify as being of Hispanic or Latinx background (meaning from a Spanish-speaking culture or descended from a Spanish-speaking culture), *OR* from another racial or ethnic group considered an Underrepresented Minority (URM) group in higher education (per definition below), **and/or** meet NIH criteria for Disadvantaged Status (below). *Note that preference will be given to applicants who meet both ethnic/racial and NIH disadvantaged status criteria.*
- Be a U.S. citizen,
- Be a matriculated UC San Diego Undergraduate,
- Have a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA at UC San Diego
- Have a declared major in an MSTEM (Medicine, Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics) area, or considering an MSTEM major (if undeclared),
- Expresses interest in Aging-focused and/or Alzheimer's Disease/Related Dementia graduate studies and/or research or clinical career,
- Submit a MADURA Application Form and short essay describing basis for interest in the Program and desired benefits, prior to stated deadlines,
- Student accepts the terms of a contract with the MADURA Program, which outline respective student, MADURA Program and Mentor commitments and obligations, and
- Student commits to attend a weekly 2-hour Group Mentorship meeting, and to work 8 hours/week during time frames offered by their desired placement.

Please note: When eligible student applicants outnumber available placements, priority will be given to continuing MADURA undergraduates who are in good standing. Additional openings will be filled based upon potential match between applicant major and career objectives and the lab training opportunity that is available.

For purposes of the Program Student Trainee selection, we are using the UCSF Office of Diversity and Outreach definition of URM students in higher education, defined as "someone whose racial or ethnic makeup is from one of the following:

- African American / Black
- Asian: Filipino, Hmong*, or Vietnamese only
- Hispanic / Latinx
- Native American / Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander
- Two or more races, when one or more are from the preceding racial and ethnic categories in this list."

NIH Disadvantaged Status Criteria are as follows. "NIH will consider individuals to have come from a disadvantaged background if they meet at least two of the following criteria: (Source: https://www.training.nih.gov/new_nih_definition_of_socioeconomic_disadvantage)

- ***Were or currently are homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act***
- ***Were or currently are in the foster care system, as defined by the Administration for Children and Families;***
- ***Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years;***
- ***Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree (see the U.S. Department of Education);***
- ***Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell grants;***
- ***Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children as a parent or child;***
- ***Grew up in one of the following areas: a) a U.S. rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer, or b) a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas (qualifying zip codes are included in the file). Only one of the two possibilities in #7 can be used as a criterion for the disadvantaged background."***