



Center for Diversity in  
Public Health Leadership Training  
at Kennedy Krieger Institute

## The Center for Diversity in Public Health

### Leadership Training Maternal Child Health Careers/ Research Initiative for Student Enhancement Undergraduate Program

#### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Program Description and Activities

##### 1. What is the MCHC/RISE-UP?

The Maternal Child Health Careers/Research Initiative for Student Enhancement Undergraduate Program (MCHC/RISE-UP) is up to a ten-week summer public health leadership program. The MCHC/RISE-UP is designed for under-resourced and underrepresented undergraduate students in their junior and senior year and recent baccalaureate degree recipients (within 12 months of MCHC/RISE-UP orientation) who are interested in learning more about preventing and reducing health disparities. MCHC/RISE-UP is a national consortium of institutions that include the following:

- Kennedy Krieger Institute partnering with Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health
- University of California Davis (UC Davis) MIND Institute partnering with UC Davis Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine Center for Disabilities and Tribal Serving Institutions.

##### 2. What are the three public health experiences offered to students?

Students can select up to two of the following public health leadership experiences:

- **Community Engagement and Advocacy Experience:** Students work with professionals in developmental disabilities, public health, and related systems on forming, implementing, and evaluating health care and disability legislation, regulations, and practice guidelines. The critical importance of engaging underrepresented communities is particularly emphasized.
- **Clinical Track Experience:** Students rotate through clinical experiences provided by Maternal and Child Health disciplines (pediatrics, psychiatry, neurology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nutrition, social work, psychology, speech/language, special education, and nursing). In addition, students gain experience in providing community-based healthcare and community support systems for underserved groups.

- **Research Experience:** Students work with research mentors on a wide range of public health, prevention, treatment, and epidemiological studies. Students receive training in community-based participatory research, which engages communities that are currently underserved by mainstream systems.

### 3. What are the typical tasks of each public health experience?

Typical tasks for each track include:

#### **Community Engagement and Advocacy:**

- Conduct surveys in the community
- Community observations of programs and activities
- Public health program evaluation at the state or local government levels

#### **Clinical:**

- Observe patient evaluation and treatment
- Assist clinical staff in patient care

#### **Research Track:**

- Data entry for research projects
- Conduct literature review
- Make telephone calls to confirm participant data
- Analyze data from current and prior research projects

### 4. What are examples of past research experiences?

You can see examples of MCHC/RISE-UP scholar projects presented at the CDC Showcase and Expo, JHU CARES, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) by clicking [here](#).

## Eligibility

### 5. Who can apply to the MCHC/RISE-UP?

Individuals eligible to apply are:

- Rising juniors, juniors, and seniors with a GPA 2.7 or better on a 4.0 scale
- Students who received their baccalaureate degree within 12 calendar months of the MCHC/RISE-UP orientation
- U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, or Permanent Residents
- Able to commit to the length of the program

### 6. I am not an underrepresented student. Can I apply to the MCHC/RISE-UP?

Yes, you can. All students interested in working in or learning more about public health, maternal and child health and health disparities are welcome to apply.

### 7. Can international students participate in the MCHC/RISE-UP?

No, international students (i.e., students with F1 or K1 visas) are not eligible.

### 8. Can graduate students participate in the MCHC/RISE-UP?

No, graduate students are not eligible for the MCHC/RISE-UP. The MCHC/RISE-UP is a program for undergraduate rising juniors, juniors, and seniors, as well as

students who have earned a baccalaureate degree since June 2021. We encourage graduate students to apply to our Ferguson RISE program.

**9. Can students without health insurance apply to the MCHC/RISE-UP?**

Students without health insurance can apply to the MCHC/RISE-UP. However, all accepted students must have health insurance.

## **Program Accommodations and Expectations**

**10. Do students receive a stipend for participating in MCHC/RISE-UP?**

Yes, students receive a stipend during their participation in the summer program (see [kennedykrieger.org/RISE-UP](http://kennedykrieger.org/RISE-UP) for details).

**11. Are travel and housing costs subtracted from the stipend?**

No. All travel costs related to the program are covered including one to two pieces of luggage. Housing costs are also covered throughout the summer program.

**12. Does the program sponsor the cost of meals?**

Meals are only covered during Orientation Week, Friday CDC Winnable Battles, and the CDC Showcase week.

**13. Can the MCHC/RISE-UP provide necessary accommodations for varying ability levels?**

Yes, we will provide accommodations. We are committed to supporting ADA-compliant learning environments across program activities. There is space in the application to note accommodations applicants may need to participate in the MCHC/RISE-UP fully. Requesting accommodations will not influence the review of applications or decision-making about program acceptance.

**14. Does the MCHC/RISE-UP count towards academic credit?**

Maybe; the student's degree-granting institution determines if academic credit can be given for participating in MCHC/RISE-UP.

**15. How many hours during the week does the student dedicate to the program?**

Students should expect to devote 40 hours per week to their project(s) and program activities.

**16. Are the program dates flexible (i.e., start later; take time off to work)?**

No, all students must commit to participation for the whole length of the program.

## **Application Details**

**17. Where can I apply to the MCHC/RISE-UP?**

The online application is available at [KennedyKrieger.org/RISE-UP](http://KennedyKrieger.org/RISE-UP) .

**18. What is the best way to answer the essay questions?**

Applicants should strive to write well-organized essays that reflect on social determinants and research perspectives related to health disparities, developmental disabilities, mental health, maternal and child health, or infectious diseases. You are

encouraged to use references/citations as necessary in your essays.

**19. Who can write my recommendation letters?**

Two letters of reference from professors, clinical advisors, research advisors, teacher assistants, or academic advisors at your current or former university are required. The referee should use their university email address. Reference format includes a brief questionnaire and a letter of recommendation with up to 850 words that must be added to the electronic form provided to the referee. **The deadline for letters of recommendation is January 31.**

**20. To whom should recommendation letters be addressed?**

Please address recommendation letters to the “MCHC/RISE-UP Selection Committee.”

**21. Is there a standard recommendation form to complete?**

Recommendations include a brief questionnaire and recommended questions referees are asked to address within the letter of recommendation.

**22. How many applicants are selected to participate in the MCHC/RISE-UP?**

The number of applicants varies from year to year. Slots are competitive.

**23. When should I expect a decision letter?**

Decision letters are emailed at the end of March.

**24. Where can more information on the MCHC/RISE-UP be found?**

Please visit MCHC/RISE-UP website, [KennedyKrieger.org/RISE-UP](http://KennedyKrieger.org/RISE-UP) for more information.

**All program activities are contingent on CDC funding.**

**Address additional questions to [MCHC-RISE-UP@KennedyKrieger.org](mailto:MCHC-RISE-UP@KennedyKrieger.org).**