



**The Center for Diversity in Public Health Leadership Training
Maternal Child Health Careers/
Research Initiative for Student Enhancement Undergraduate Program
Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What is MCHC/RISE-UP?

Maternal Child Health Careers/Research Initiative for Student Enhancement Undergraduate Program (MCHC/RISE-UP) is a 10-week summer public health leadership program designed for undergraduates in their junior and senior year and recent baccalaureate degree (within 12 months of MCHC/RISE-UP program orientation) students who have at least a 2.7 GPA on a 4.0 scale and are interested in learning more about preventing health disparities. MCHC/RISE-UP is a national consortium of institutions including the Kennedy Krieger Institute; Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities; 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; and 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 experiences:

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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 typical tasks of each public health experience?

- a. 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
- b. Clinical:
 - Observe patient evaluation and treatment
 - Assist clinical staff in patient care
 - Assist in organizing and cleaning equipment for patient visits
- c. Research Track:
 - Data entry for research projects
 - Conduct a literature review
 - Make telephone calls to confirm participant data
 - Analyze data from current and/or prior research projects

4. Who can apply to the MCHC/RISE-UP program?

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 program orientation
- U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, Permanent Residents
- Able to commit to the length of the program

5. Do students receive a stipend for participating in MCHC/RISE-UP program?

Students receive a stipend for the 10-week summer program (see KennedyKrieger.org/RISE-UP for details).

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

All students interested in working in the area of health, maternal and child health and health disparities are welcome to apply.

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

International students (i.e., students with F1 or K1 visa) are not eligible.

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

Graduate students cannot participate in the MCHC/RISE-UP program. A special emphasis of the MCH/RISE-UP is to recruit undergraduate rising juniors, seniors and recent baccalaureate (within 12 months of the MCHC/RISE-UP program orientation) degree students from underrepresented populations (<https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>).

9. Does the MCHC/RISE-UP program count towards academic credit?

The student's university/college determines if academic credit is granted for participating in the MCHC/RISE-UP program.

10. Are the program dates flexible (i.e., start at a later date; take time off to work)?

All students must commit to the entire program.

11. Where can I apply to MCHC/RISE-UP program?

The online application is available at KennedyKrieger.org/RISE-UP

12. Can students without health insurance apply to the MCHC/RISE-UP program?

Students without health insurance can apply to the MCHC/RISE-UP program. All accepted students must have health insurance.

13. Are travel and housing costs taken out the stipend?

Housing and round-trip travel for out-of-state scholars are paid by the grant, as funding is available. Travel and housing costs are NOT taken out of the stipend.

14. Are meals program sponsored?

Breakfast and lunch are provided during the Baltimore and CDC Showcase and Expo. Dinner will be provided on Memorial Day and during the CDC Showcase and Expo.

15. Who can write my recommendation letters?

Two letters of reference from professors, clinical advisors, or research advisors at your current university are required. References from teacher assistants are not allowed. Reference format includes a brief questionnaire and up to 850-word letter of recommendation that must be added to the electronic form provided to the referee. **The deadline for letters of recommendation is January 31.**

16. Who should recommendation letters be addressed to?

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

17. Is there a standard recommendation form to complete?

There is a brief questionnaire and recommending topic areas to address for the letter of recommendation.

18. When should I expect a decision letter?

Decision letters are sent by the end of March.

19. How many hours during the week do student devote to their public health project and program activities?

Students devote a minimum of 40 hours per week to their project(s) and program activities.

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

The number applicants vary from year to year. Slots are competitive.

21. Where can more information on the MCHC/RISE-UP program be found?

Please visit MCHC/RISE-UP website, KennedyKrieger.org/RISE-UP for more information.

All program activities are contingent on CDC funding.

Address additional questions to MCHC-RISE-UP@KennedyKrieger.org.