



**The University of Arizona**  
**Minority Health Disparities (MHD)**  
**Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium (UROC)**  
**Tucson, Arizona**  
**June 3 – August 9, 2017**  
<https://grad.arizona.edu/uroc/mhd>

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## Program Overview

**Description:** [http://buildingscholars.utep.edu/web/docs/summer-research-program/UofA\\_SummerResearch.pdf](http://buildingscholars.utep.edu/web/docs/summer-research-program/UofA_SummerResearch.pdf)

Our summer programs are an essential component of the UA Graduate College's multi-pronged approach to supporting a pipeline of talented underrepresented minority, low-income, first-generation college students into graduate study. They have been impactful in the enrollment of talented URM into STEM graduate programs all around the country, including the UA. Over 75% of UROC participants enter graduate study upon completion of their baccalaureate degree.

In Fall 2016, almost 1,500 graduate students at UA were an underrepresented minority, i.e., Hispanic, Native American and African American, a 64% increase in the last 10 years. UA students from underrepresented backgrounds represent 21% of the graduate student body. URM retention rates and grade point averages are on par with those of all other graduate students. Currently, the UA ranks #1 in the country for Ph.D.s earned by Native American students, and #7 in the number of Ph.D.s earned by Latinos, surpassed only by universities that graduate a much larger total number of Ph.D.s.

## Logistics

**Arrival:** June 3

**Departure:** August 8 (must vacate dorms 8/9)

**Program Contact:**

Holly Lopez  
(520) 621-5565  
[hollyl@email.arizona.edu](mailto:hollyl@email.arizona.edu)

**Student Mailing Address:**

1031 N. Mountain Ave  
Tucson, AZ 85721

## Accommodations

**Housing:** Pima Dorms

Detailed information available at:

<http://www.life.arizona.edu/residence-halls/pima>

**Amenities, Room Features:**

- Shared rooms
- Suite-style bathrooms
- Visitors allowed
- Bed linens at additional cost (bring XL)
- Community kitchen facility with utensils

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**Meals:**

- Students are allotted \$1,560 for meals.
- Information on University meal plans is provided to students.
- Grocery stores and “cheap eats” are within walking distance.

**Transportation****Ground Transportation**

Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements to and from Tucson if driving. We will reimburse students for the cost (\$340 round trip). A summer parking permit must be purchased by the student.

**Air Transportation**

If a student chooses to fly, travel arrangements will be made by Holly Lopez ([hollyl@email.arizona.edu](mailto:hollyl@email.arizona.edu)).

**Training Activities**

The Minority Health Disparities Program (MHD) operates under the UROC umbrella which provides participants with excellent research training and graduate school preparation through:

- Intensive 10-week research experience under the guidance of a faculty mentor
- Professional development and graduate admission workshops
- Free professional GRE workshop and encouragement to take the GRE during UROC
- Social opportunities and a support network of like-minded peers
- Poster session, oral presentation, and abstract writing

Additional benefits specific to the MHD program include:

- Six units of upper division research credit (the UA will cover the cost of this)
- Weekly speaker series focused specifically on biomedical research related to minority health disparities
- Workshops focused on issues related to biomedical research and graduate school preparation

MHD student outcomes include the creation and presentation of a scientific poster, 15-minute oral presentation, and abstract. We require these three products of all UROC students because each product provides a different type of exposure in terms of scientific writing and academic discourse. We also fundamentally believe in the broader impacts achieved by sharing technical STEM training with the local community, so members of the University community, as well as the public, are always invited to the poster session that concludes the summer program in August.

Students will showcase their posters at a common Research Conference on Monday, August 7, using the SACNAS model for classification of scientific disciplines. In previous years, over 500 members of the University and local community have turned out to support the Research Conference students, including many graduate coordinators and faculty who value this event as a recruitment opportunity for their graduate programs. The students’ photographs, basic biographical information, and abstracts are showcased at the annual Research Conference both in print and in digital formats.

UROC students engage in intensive graduate school preparation activities that serve as critical student outcomes in conjunction with the research experience. These include a 30-hour GRE preparation workshop, supplemental instruction (tutoring) in math and writing, professional presentation skills

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training in groups of seven, and a graduate admission symposium. The graduate admission symposium includes:

- faculty panels that address the nuances of departmental admission decisions;
- panels of current graduate students who discuss their experiences in applying and matriculating into graduate programs;
- presentations about various sources of funding (institutional, need-based, external, and federally-sponsored grant agencies etc.); and
- instruction in all steps of the graduate admission process, including writing a personal statement, engaging in a search for graduate programs, and etiquette in asking for letters of recommendation.

## **Non-Academic Activities**

### **Recreational Activities**

Membership to the campus recreational center is included.

<https://rec.arizona.edu/>

### **Social Activities:**

- Welcome event & ice cream social
- Pool party at Campus Recreation Center, including tour of facilities

### **Local Attractions (and proposed activities):**

- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
  - Rated Tucson's #1 attraction, ranked number 5 of top museums and top five public gardens to visit in the United States and ranked number nine in the world of top museums  
<http://desertmuseum.org>
- Biosphere 2
  - A unique large-scale experimental apparatus housing seven model ecosystems with active research by teams of multidisciplinary scientists  
<http://biosphere2.org/>
- Kartchner Caverns State Park
  - Stunning limestone cave in Southeastern Arizona that boasts world-class features. This “live” cave, discovered in 1974, is host to a wide variety of unique minerals and formations. Tour guides will unveil this fascinating underground landscape during a memorable 1½ hour tour.  
<http://azstateparks.com/Parks/KACA/index.html>

<p><b>Note!</b> Students will continue to receive their monthly stipend from BUILDing SCHOLARS throughout the summer in addition to receiving meals, travel, and housing from the Partner institution.</p>
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