2018 Amgen Scholars Webinar

Student-Faculty Programs Office
www.sfp.caltech.edu
Who are we?

- Candace Rypisi
  - Director

- Maria Manzanares
  - Assistant Director
Introduction

- Overview of the Amgen Scholars Program
- The application process
- Important Dates
- Questions/Chat
National Amgen Scholars Program

- Amgen Scholar sites (https://amgenscholars.com/)
  - Caltech
  - Columbia/Barnard
  - Duke
  - Harvard
  - Johns Hopkins
  - NIH
  - Stanford
  - UC Berkeley, UCLA, UCSF
  - UT Southwest Medical Center
  - Washington University, St. Louis
  - Yale
  - 4 sites in Asia
Who can apply?

- Be sophomores (with at least 4 quarters or 3 semesters of college course work), juniors, or non-graduating seniors attending 4-year colleges or universities in US, Puerto Rico, other US territories
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2
- Be US citizens or permanent residents
- Have an interest in pursuing a PhD or MD/PhD
- Students who have already been an Amgen Scholar are not eligible.
Amgen Scholars Program at Caltech

- Open to 15 students
- Focus on research in an academic setting in biology, chemistry, and bio-technology related fields
- Introduction to the world of biotechnology
- Graduate school preparation
Overview of the Program

- A full-time commitment
  - All Amgen Scholars MUST begin on Monday, June 17
  - All Amgen Scholars MUST live in provided campus housing

- Educational requirements:
  - Interim reports, abstract, final paper, final presentation

- Summer symposium in July

- Weekly seminars
Compensation

- Amgen Scholars receive a $6,350 stipend for the ten-week period.
- Housing (on-campus housing required) and travel costs are covered.
Overview of Application Process

- Based on grant-seeking process

- Identify a mentor

- Submit:
  - an application
  - a short essay on your research interests and the project
  - three letters of recommendation (not from your possible mentor)
  - an unofficial transcript
How do I find a mentor?

- Mentors need to be a Caltech faculty member

- Announcements of Opportunity (AOs)
  
  https://www.sfp.caltech.edu/programs/amgen_scholars

- Review 2018 Abstracts
  
  https://sfp.caltech.edu/about/abstract

- Browse the website and contact faculty of interest
  
  http://www.caltech.edu/content/academic-divisions-0

- Be sure to look outside your major, much of the research at Caltech is interdisciplinary
Hints for finding a mentor

- Start early
- Contact multiple possible mentors at once; but don’t spread mass emails. Pursue only research groups you are truly interested in.
- DON’T RELY ON EMAIL!
  - If you are close to Caltech, visit their office.
  - Call as a follow-up to an email.
  - CC the administrative assistant on all emails.
- Contact the faculty’s administrative assistant for help in setting a meeting.
- Contact a graduate student or postdoc in the group to learn more about the group.
- Use who you know.
- If you are having difficulty, contact the Student-Faculty Programs (SFP) office--early.
- Be assertive yet professional!
The Application

- Who you are, where you live
- Courses you’ve taken or will take
- Extracurricular activities
- Prizes and awards
- How this project fits into academic/career goals
- Anything else you want to tell us
Letters of Recommendation

- Three confidential letters of recommendation, at least two from a faculty member, who is not your prospective mentor

- The other could be from someone else in your campus community who knows you well
The Mentor Recommendation

- Your prospective mentor will submit the mentor recommendation online after you submit your application.
Timeline

Now-January  Find a mentor
Feb. 15      ASP application due
             Recommendations due
March 15     ASP awards are announced
June 17      ASP begins
Mid-July     Summer Symposium
August 23    ASP ends
Website

http://www.sfp.caltech.edu/programs/amgen_scholars
How to Reach Us

URL: www.sfp.caltech.edu
E-mail: sfp@caltech.edu
Phone: 626-395-2885
Office: Caltech
1200 E. California Blvd
MC 330-87
330 Center for Student Services