



Cancer Research Immersion Student Program (CRISP) 2026 Summary and Application

Applications & supporting materials due Saturday, February 28, 2026

Summer Program Dates: Monday, June 1 - Friday, July 24, 2026

Sponsored by the Partnership of Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM), Tuskegee University (TU), and the O'Neal Cancer Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), CRISP is designed to introduce undergraduate students to hands-on cancer research – including research focused on cancer health disparities – through training, faculty mentoring, and coursework. Participation in designated seminars and workshops further strengthens students' scientific knowledge, laboratory skills, and overall understanding of cancer and cancer research.

Through this comprehensive research experience, CRISP trainees become stronger candidates for advanced degree programs in cancer-related fields and are better prepared to pursue careers as independent investigators. Ultimately, the program aims to expand the pipeline of cancer researchers and healthcare professionals committed to reducing cancer health disparities across the Deep South.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Program Dates: Monday, June 1 – Friday, July 24, 2026

Application Deadline: Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026 (11:59pm CT)

The summer program includes the following components:

- Opportunity to work with cancer researchers and scientists
- Introduction to cancer research guided by faculty mentors
- Development of a comprehensive career plan to achieve goals
- Complete a hands-on cancer research project
- MCAT/GRE Prep and scientific writing assistance
- Opportunity to present research results at local, regional, and/or national meetings, including a national cancer meeting
- Students will be paid a stipend for their summer participation (\$2,800 for 8-week summer)
- Housing provided at UAB for TU students (not available for UAB students)
- Housing may be available for Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUCC) students - *dependent on availability*

ELIGIBILITY

We encourage qualified undergraduate students of all majors who meet the following eligibility requirements to apply:

- Undergraduate student attending one of the following institutions:
 - Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUCC)
 - Clark Atlanta University (CAU)
 - Morehouse College (MC)
 - Spelman College (SC)
 - Tuskegee University (TU)
 - University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)
- Aim of obtaining an advanced degree (PhD, MD, etc.) with a goal of pursuing a career in cancer research and/or a cancer-related health profession
- Commitment to participate in a mentored cancer research experience at UAB or MSM during summer (TU/UAB students will be on the UAB campus. AUCC students will be on the MSM campus.)
- Agreement to follow academic requirements of the CRISP
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA
- Two letters of recommendation (at least one must be from a faculty member)

To ensure the most rewarding experience, we request that trainees NOT enroll in summer courses, participate in other summer programs, or work, unless approved by the program administrators. Trainees should anticipate a 40-hour work week including seminars, research, and assignments.

Applications & supporting documentation due Saturday, February 28, 2026.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application & supporting documentation due Saturday, February 28, 2026 (11:59 pm CT).

- **Complete ALL sections of the application:** It is your responsibility to make certain that your application is complete and that all supporting documents (essay/personal statement, transcript(s), resumé /CV, and recommendation letters) are received by the due date. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- **The following supporting documents should be uploaded into application:**
 - **Personal Statement/Essay** - Address the following items in a well-developed and well-written (logically sequenced, grammatically correct, concise) one-to-two-page typed essay (250-500 words):
 - Why would you like to participate in CRISP?
 - How will participation impact your academic and career goals?
 - What qualifications set you apart from other applicants?
 - **Unofficial Transcripts(s)**
 - **Current Resumé /CV**
- **The following supporting documents should be emailed:**
 - **Letters of Recommendation** - Request letters of recommendation from two people familiar with your academic and/or research work. At least one letter must be from a faculty member. Letters of recommendation should be sent by the recommender from their official email account to ekhudson@uab.edu by Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026.

For additional information about CRISP, please contact the appropriate institution. Please note that students who attend an AUCC institution will be under the management of MSM.

Contact Info by Institution:

CAU, MC, and SC students:

Morehouse School of
Medicine

Shailesh Singh, PhD

404-756-5718

shsingh@msm.edu

TU students:

Tuskegee University

Honghe Wang, PhD

334-724-4986

hwang@tuskegee.edu

UAB students:

University of Alabama at
Birmingham

Ann S. Smith, MPH

256-454-2204

annsmith@uab.edu

Note about the online application:

Thank you for completing the following application. If needed, you can leave the survey and return to complete it at a later time (within two weeks), **provided that you are using the same device**. If you need to leave the survey and return, please be sure to click the arrow at the bottom of the page on which you are working to ensure that the information you have entered on that page is saved. If you have issues accessing your previously started application, including needing to access it from a different device, please email ekhudson@uab.edu for assistance.

For a preview of the application (not to be filled out or submitted), click [here](#).