

Health Excellence

Research Education Program

2025

Overview

The Health Excellence Research Education Program (HEREP) at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is a career development program for early-stage investigators or junior faculty that focuses on education and training in population health and community-engaged research.

What to Expect

Participants in the Health Excellence Research Education Program (HEREP) will strengthen their research and grant-writing skills while gaining mentorship, networking opportunities, and foundational knowledge to advance careers in healthy living research. Through individualized mentored training, scholars will learn scientific research methodology, study design, and grant preparation, leading to the submission of an R03 (or equivalent) grant proposal during or shortly after the program.

Key Benefits



Advanced Skill Development: Strengthen research, data analysis, and grant writing capabilities



Mentorship: Work closely with experienced faculty for personalized guidance



Networking: Engage with an interdisciplinary research community



Scientific Writing: Focus on publishing manuscripts and writing competitive grant proposals



Career Growth: Gain tools and experience to secure funding and advance professionally

Eligibility Criteria

- **Junior Faculty:** Faculty at Morehouse School of Medicine, Tuskegee University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Creighton University with research interests in cancer and/or aging.
- **Transitional Faculty:** Mid-level faculty new to research or shifting toward population and community-engaged health research.
- **Medical or Postdoctoral Fellows**
- **Research Interest:** Applicants must show strong interest in population and community-engaged health research.

We are accepting applications for this one-year certificate program which runs from January 2026 to September 2026.

Applications due by

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

[**Click here to apply!**](#)

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Application Process

All candidates must submit an online application via [the link provided here](#) or on the UAB Healthy Living Research Center website, along with the required supporting documents (see list below). Please have all materials ready to upload as separate Adobe PDF files when completing the online application:

1. Current CV

2. Statement of Intent

Your statement should briefly address:

- Your interest in population and community-engaged health research
- How you will integrate HEREP into your current schedule
- How the program aligns with your career goals
- Your timeline for submitting a related grant application

3. One Letter of Support (LOS)

Request your LOS early (now) from a supervising senior faculty member, Director, Dean, or Chair. The letter should confirm support for your research career and approval for release time to participate in HEREP.

Submission Details

Applications due by

**Wednesday, December 3, 2025
by 11:59pm CT**

Applicants will be notified by December 19, 2025.

[**Click here to apply!**](#)

Questions?

Contact Ann Smith
(205) 934-9903
annsmith@uab.edu

Program Requirements

- ☐ Submit at least one manuscript
- ☐ Maintain at least 80% attendance at HEREP activities
- ☐ Submit all required HEREP reports
- ☐ Submit a grant application to an external funding agency (K-award or R-series) or pilot grant application, depending on experience

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Schedule Information

The Health Excellence Research Education Program (HEREP) has a one-year training period. As a scholar with the program, you must commit your schedule to include the Faculty Development Discussion webinars and workshops, as well as time to work with your mentor or mentoring team on writing manuscripts for publication and developing a grant proposal and submitting it.

Your attendance is required for all activities listed below.

- 1. Faculty development discussion video conferences**
Weekly connecting via zoom. 22 x 1.5 hour sessions (3-5/month thru Sept).
Tuesdays at 1:30-3:00pm Central Time (2:30-4:00 ET) - proposed start is Jan 13, 2026.
- 2. Virtual workshops on bioethics and cross-cultural issues**
Two one-day virtual workshops hosted by Tuskegee University - **proposed dates are Friday, Feb 20 and Friday, Sept 11, 2026.**
- 3. Independent research and grant proposal development**
Guided by a mentor. Dates and times coordinated on an individual basis.
- 4. Individual grant development and in-person critique session**
Grant Writing Retreat for methodological training and in-depth critique of research grant proposals - **proposed dates are June 10-12, 2026.**

Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the HEREP?**
The Health Excellence Research Education Program (HEREP) is a 1-year individualized mentored research training certificate program, which is sponsored by multiple grants and institutions, and coordinated by the UAB Comprehensive Healthy Living Research Center (Healthy Living Center).
- How much time is required?**
The HEREP involves approximately 4-6 hours per week, including workshops, seminars, and independent work. Scholars are required to participate in scheduled video conference faculty development discussions. The week of the Grant Writing Retreat requires a full three days (Wed-Thurs-Fri), proposed **June 10-12, 2026**

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Frequently Asked Questions Continued

► **How are participants selected?**

A committee composed of leaders from the sponsoring grants reviews applications based on merit, commitment, and alignment with sponsoring grant goals.

► **Is financial support available?**

No stipends are available for this program, nor is there tuition or a charge to participate.

► **What will selected scholars do?**

The scholars will focus on population and community-engaged health research, secondary data analysis, and development of manuscripts for publication and grant proposals for submission, in addition to the faculty development discussions.

► **What does the mentoring include?**

As part of the individualized mentoring, each HEREP scholar will develop a Scholar/Mentor Research Work Plan Agreement. The scholar and mentor will work together at times scheduled by the scholar/mentor dyads to set the scholar's personal HEREP goals based on where the scholar is in his/her career, and grant and publication history.

► **What types of grants can scholars apply for?**

Individual scholars will be encouraged to apply for small pilot projects, larger intramural pilot grants, or larger foundation or NIH grant funding, based on their experience and needs.

► **How is the certificate earned?**

Scholars who complete all program requirements will receive a certificate in population and community-engaged health research, signifying specialized training in population and community-engaged health research.

Sponsored By



Sponsored by grants from the NIH National Cancer Institute (NCI) and NIH National Institute on Aging (NIA), and Creighton University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Tuskegee University, the University of Alabama, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and coordinated by the UAB Healthy Living Research Center.