

Health Excellence

Research Education Program

2026-2027

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 (see eligibility criteria) that focuses on education and training in population and community-engaged health research.

What to Expect

Through the HEREP, participants will strengthen their research and grant-writing skills, build valuable mentorship and professional networks, and develop the foundational knowledge necessary for success in healthy living research careers. Through individualized mentored training, scholars will learn scientific research methodology, study design, and grant preparation, leading to the submission of a K- or R-series (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

- **Research Interest:** Strong interest in population and community-engaged health research; cancer and aging research encouraged (other interests considered; see FAQs)
- **Junior Faculty:** Faculty at Morehouse School of Medicine, Tuskegee University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Creighton University
- **Medical or Postdoctoral Fellows**
- **Transitional Faculty:** Mid-level faculty new to research or transitioning to population and community-engaged health research

Now accepting applications for this one-year certificate program which runs from October 2026 to September 2027.

Applications due by

Wednesday, September 23, 2026



Scan or click the link below to apply!

[Apply Now](#)

UAB MEDICINE
Comprehensive Healthy Living Research Center

Health Excellence

Research Education Program

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 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 the program aligns with your career goals
- How you will integrate HEREP into your current schedule
- 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 the HEREP.

Submission Details

Applications due by

**Wednesday, September 23, 2026
by 5:00 pm CT**

Applicants will be notified by **October 5, 2026**.



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Program Requirements

- ☐ Submit at least one manuscript for publication
- ☐ 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, within 18 months of the program's start

Questions?

Contact Ann Smith

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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 Oct. 20, 2026.
- 2. Virtual workshops on bioethics and cross-cultural issues**
Two one-day virtual workshops hosted by Tuskegee University - **proposed dates are Friday, Nov. 13, 2026, and Friday, May 14, 2027.**
- 3. Independent research and grant proposal development**
Scholars work with a mentor or mentoring team to develop research projects, manuscripts, and grant proposals, with meeting dates and times coordinated jointly.
- 4. Individual grant development and in-person critique session**
Three-day, in-person Grant Writing Retreat where scholars develop and present grant plans for feedback and critique from mentors, senior faculty, investigators, and program leaders.
Proposed dates are Feb. 24-26, 2027.

Frequently Asked Questions

-  **What is the HEREP?**
The HEREP is a one-year individualized mentored research training certificate program coordinated by the UAB Comprehensive Healthy Living Research Center.
-  **How much time is required?**
The HEREP involves approximately 4-6 hours per week, including workshops, weekly faculty development discussions, seminars, and independent work. The Grant Writing Retreat requires three full days, proposed **Feb. 24-26, 2027.**
-  **Is financial support available?**
No stipends are available for this program, nor is there tuition or a charge to participate.

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Frequently Asked Questions Continued

**Can I apply if my research focus is not cancer or aging?**

Yes. Applicants in other health areas may be considered if their work aligns with population and community-engaged health research. Departmental or institutional support may be needed for those outside the current cancer and aging sponsorship areas.

**How are participants selected?**

Leaders from the sponsoring grants review applications and make decisions based on merit, commitment to program, and alignment with research goals of the sponsoring grants.

**What will selected scholars do?**

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 participating in the faculty development discussions.

**What does the mentoring include?**

Each HEREP scholar will develop a Scholar/Mentor Research Work Plan Agreement and work with their mentor or mentoring team to set goals based on career stage, grant experience, and publication history.

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

Scholars are 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 signifying specialized training in population and community-engaged health research.

Learn More About HEREP's Sponsors and Coordinating Center



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.