

NIH NIDDK Short-Term Education Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP)

History & Purpose

The NIDDK Short-Term Education Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP) is a program of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIDDK STEP-UP was created to encourage students from underrepresented ethnic minority backgrounds to enter careers in medicine and biomedical research.

NIDDK STEP-UP exposes its participants to biomedical research in the NIDDK mission areas: diabetes, endocrinology, metabolism, nutrition, obesity, and digestive, liver, urologic, kidney, and hematologic diseases.

UAA STEP-UP Information

The eight-week NIDDK STEP-UP program is administered by WWAMI—Alaska's Medical School. Each NIDDK STEP-UP student is paired with a UAA researcher and designs, conducts, and analyzes an individual research project under his or her mentorship.

It is a non-residential program. Travel and housing assistance may be available for qualifying students from rural Alaska. Rural students are required to live on campus in a UAA dormitory for the length of the program.

NIDDK STEP-UP participants receive the opportunity to:

- Learn about biomedical research through active involvement in a project
- Take short courses which introduce them to the college premedical curriculum
- Present their research at the annual NIDDK STEP-UP conference, on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

Many students find the trip to Bethesda and the project competition to be the highlight of their summer. Parents are invited to attend the presentations, to support and applaud their children's work and to acknowledge the hours of research and preparation that have been invested in their research projects.

Other Advantages

NIDDK STEP-UP high school program students who go on to college are eligible to apply to NIDDK programs for undergraduate students. Scholarship opportunities for further education are also available through the NIDDK.

NIDDK STEP-UP Program Eligibility

Alaskan students from underrepresented ethnic minority backgrounds who are currently enrolled in their junior or senior year of high school are eligible to apply to NIDDK STEP-UP. Applicants must also be US citizens, US nationals or Permanent Residents.

How to Apply to NIDDK STEP-UP

Apply on-line at <http://stepup.niddk.nih.gov/hs.htm>

You will need to have two letters of recommendation and your official high school transcript sent to NIDDK (see the address listed on the NIDDK STEP-UP website).

For more information, contact:

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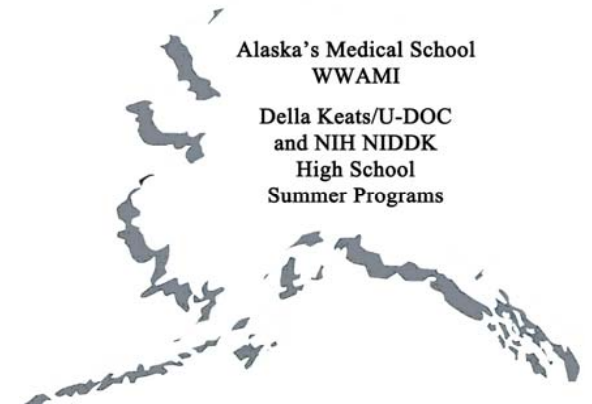


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Programs Administered by WWAMI—Alaska's Medical School

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Della Keats/U-DOC Summer Enrichment Program

What Is Della Keats/U-DOC?

The UAA Della Keats/U-DOC Summer Enrichment Program is an intensive six-week program administered by WWAMI—Alaska's Medical School. Its purpose is to help Alaskan high school students from minority, rural, and other disadvantaged populations step onto the pathway leading to high-demand careers in medicine and other health-care fields.

The program's goals are to foster, affirm, and encourage high school students' interest in health-care professions, and to help students make a successful transition from high school to college.

Enrichment Opportunities

Della Keats/U-DOC program participants receive a valuable introduction to college life during their stay on the UAA campus. Participants take short classes to introduce them to the premedical curriculum (Anatomy and Physiology, Public Health, Microbiology, and others).

Della Keats/U-DOC students gain first-hand knowledge of health-care careers by job shadowing health-care providers, taking tours of medical facilities, and listening to guest presentations.

Participants also receive instruction in:

- Laboratory procedures
- Use of computers and other technology
- Research methods
- Written and oral communication
- Problem solving and test taking
- College survival
- Becoming a competitive medical school candidate
- Money management/budgeting

Della Keats/U-DOC Program Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the Della Keats/U-DOC Program, an applicant must:

1. Be a U.S. Citizen or US National or Permanent Resident and a resident of Alaska;
2. Be enrolled as a junior or senior in high school at the time of application;
3. Meet **at least one** of the following criteria:
 - belong to an ethnic minority group;
 - live in a rural area of Alaska;
 - speak English as a second language;
 - be a first-generation American;
 - be economically disadvantaged; **and/or**
 - be the first in his/her family to go to college



Returning Students

Students who have already successfully completed the Della Keats/U-DOC program can apply to return for a second summer as a research student. Each research student is paired with a UAA researcher and designs, conducts and analyzes an individual research project under his or her mentorship and takes part in research focused workshops and courses instead of the standard Della Keats/U-DOC coursework.



Cost

There is no cost to participants in the Della Keats/U-DOC program. Housing is provided at no cost, and a stipend may be provided to help cover food and miscellaneous expenses. Due to the programs' demanding schedules, students may not hold jobs or participate in other activities while participating in Della Keats/U-DOC.

How To Apply

Applicants must submit:

- A completed Della Keats/U-DOC Summer Enrichment Program application (Go to http://biomed.uaa.alaska.edu/dk_udoc.html)
- A sealed, official current high school transcript*
- PSAT/SAT/ACT scores *if available*
- Two sealed letters of recommendation from teachers [*one of which **must** be from a science or mathematics teacher*]
- Current photograph of self

Acceptance is based on written responses to essay questions from the application form, letters of recommendation, high school academic performance, and a formal telephone interview.

*Ask your high school counselor how to obtain your transcript.