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Applications accepted for eye research program

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

Sophomores and juniors with an eye on research can get hands-on experience at Oakland University's **Eye Research Institute** (ERI) this summer.

The ERI Summer Undergraduate Program in Eye Research is accepting applications from OU undergraduates to conduct independent research projects under the guidance of ERI faculty. Up to six students can receive research fellowships of \$3,000 each.

Students receive research training in biochemistry, cell biology, physiology, molecular biology, signal transduction and neuroscience as applied to the study of the eye and blinding eye diseases.

The 12-week program runs from May 11 through July 30.

"You're not just sitting and doing experiments. I learned what it takes to write a good research paper and what reviewers are looking for, how to present research, and how doctors will use your research in clinicals," said senior Sara Pelliccia, an undergraduate eye researcher in 2002 who currently is applying to medical schools and considering ophthalmology as a career as a result of her research experience. "I didn't think there were this many opportunities at the undergraduate level. I was working on the same experiments as the Ph.D. students.

"I would definitely recommend this to other students. It provided great insight into the world of research."

Applicants must be OU undergraduate students currently enrolled in a degree program, part- or full-time, leading to a bachelor's degree, with at least a 3.0 grade point average in science courses. The program is intended for sophomores and juniors who are contemplating careers in biological or biomedical research or science teaching.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for students to conduct research early in their career and gain laboratory experience," says Frank Giblin, ERI interim director. "The summer program at the ERI is great preparation for a career, or graduate or medical school."

To apply, students must submit a completed application, brief resume, copy of a current transcript, one letter of reference from an academic source, and a one-page, double-spaced essay describing their career goals and interest in science. The application deadline is Friday, March 5. Applications are available in 416 Dodge Hall or on the **Eye Research Institute** Web site.

For more information on the program, contact Paulette Realy, assistant to the ERI director, at (248) 370-2390 or pmrealy@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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