C*STAR PROGRAM GUIDELINES

C*STAR ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the C*STAR program, you must:

- Be enrolled in an eligible program on the Urbana-Champaign campus during fall 2015 that include the physical, biological, or medical sciences; engineering; social sciences; education; social work; humanities; or other related areas.
- Be willing to work with an Illinois faculty member and Carle physician on a clinically-relevant project.
- Intend to pursue a research-based Master's and/or Ph.D. program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The following categories are always ineligible for the C*STAR program:

- Those who have earned their terminal graduate or professional degree by May 15, 2015 and are no longer graduate students.
- Those who are part-time students.

When should I apply for the C*STAR program?
The online application closes on June 1 and is available at https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/9938453.

Are there other program activities that I will be participating in?
Awardees will be expected to fully participate in all C*STAR related activities. Awardees are expected to participate in events sponsored the C*STAR program including a possible poster presentation or symposium. Awardees are encouraged to communicate with one another and collaborate as appropriate toward their common goals.

Can I apply for the C*STAR program if I have not been accepted to a graduate program?
No, individuals must be enrolled in a graduate program at the time of application submission.

What fields of study are eligible for the C*STAR program?
The C*STAR program supports a broad range of fields. These include but are not meant to be restrictive in any way:

- Practice-oriented, professional degree programs (i.e., MSW, MPH)
- Joint science-professional degree programs (i.e., MD/PhD)
- Engineering, basic sciences or bioinformatics
- Social work
- Public health programs
- Medical programs
- Counseling programs
• Research including the etiology, diagnosis, or treatment of cancer
• Clinical areas of study (including patient-oriented research; epidemiological and behavioral studies; outcomes research; health services research; pharmacologic, non-pharmacologic, and behavioral interventions for disease prevention, diagnosis, or therapy; and community and other population-based interventions.

Additional questions about eligibility
Please email cancerscholars@illinois.edu if you have any questions about the eligibility guidelines.

Award
Up to six students may be awarded for up to three years.

PHYSICIAN COLLABORATOR

• Physician release time will be provided by Carle to work with the student and faculty mentor.
• A major component of the C*STAR program is a collaboration with a physician. It is recommended that you try to develop a project with input from a Carle physician or medical person. It is preferred, but not required, if they are identified on your application.
• If no collaborating physician is identified, there will be an opportunity to connect with physicians during June 15-19 at Carle Physician Week at Illinois.
• All applicants will be invited to meetings with the Carle physicians during June 15-19.

APPLICATION

Application Requirements:
• 1 page research statement
• Updated curriculum vitae
• Two (2) letters of reference to be sent separately to cancerscholars@illinois.edu

Can I submit supplemental material such as papers, videos, etc. for reviewers to consider?
The only application content that will be considered by reviewers is a research statement, curriculum vitae, and two letters of reference. Any other information that is submitted would be marked as extraneous, and would not be considered in the review process. Applicants are encouraged not to submit extraneous information or materials such as CDs, manuscripts, or medical reports. These items will not be reviewed with an application.
Can I obtain copies of past successful applications and/or research statements?
No. This content is not available during this round of submission and review.

What are the formatting requirements for the statements?
The statements must be written using standard 8.5" x 11" page size, 12-point, Times New Roman font or Arial font, 1" margins on all sides, and must be single spaced or greater. Only references, footnotes, and figure captions may be a smaller font, but no less than 10-point Times New Roman.

What is the page limit for the research statement?
The research statement has a 1-page limit. All references, footnotes, citations, images, etc. are included in these page limits.

Do I need to put my name or other identifying information on the statements?
Yes, your name or any other identifying information should be on the research statement.

Do I need to upload official transcripts with the application?
No, transcripts should not be uploaded.

What are the merit review criteria?
The merit review criteria for the C*STAR program are intellectual merit, feasibility, and impact.

What are some examples of the intellectual merit criterion?
You can show evidence of intellectual merit by providing information that shows your potential to advance the knowledge in your field. For example:

- A proposed plan of research that is scientifically sound, reflects knowledge of existing work, and makes a contribution to the field.
- Previous research experience, internships, and volunteer experiences.
- The strength of your academic record.

REFERENCE LETTERS

How can I find out if my reference letters have been submitted?
Notifications will be sent out electronically to the email address provided. Inquires can be sent to cancerscholars@illinois.edu.

Can reference letters be submitted by email, physical mail, or campus mail?
Reference letters should be sent via email to cancerscholars@illinois.edu.
NOTIFICATION PROCESS

When will applicants be notified of the results?
Reviewed applicants will be notified of the results via the email address provided.

What should I do if I do not receive a notification?
If you did not receive a notification, please check your e-mail's spam folder. If you cannot locate the e-mail there, please e-mail cancerscholars@illinois.edu.

Can I appeal the results of my application if I was not awarded?
There is no reconsideration for award decisions.

PROGRAM DATES

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 24, 2015</td>
<td>Online Application Portal Available</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1, 2015</td>
<td>Application Deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15 - 19</td>
<td>Carle Physicians Week at Illinois (Meet the physicians working in the areas of interest).</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1 – 30, 2015</td>
<td>Application Review and Notification Process</td>
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CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, contact cancerscholars@illinois.edu.