

Physical Genomics Training Program

Trainee Selection and Appointment Procedures

Eligibility Criteria:

- (1) First or second year graduate student at the time of application
- (2) must meet NRSA qualifications
- (3) must be in good standing in applicant's PhD program
- (4) must have identified a PGTP preceptor as their thesis advisor

Application Deadline: August 1st at 5 PM (CDT)

Application Materials:

1. Complete application form (see below)
2. Research Plan: a one-page PDF format, single-sided proposal detailing the applicant's transdisciplinary approach to problem-solving and how it will be applied to a physical genomics project. A second page is allowed for figures and/or references.
3. Two Recommendation Letters: 1) Primary PGTP Mentor and identified thesis advisory and 2) Secondary PGTP Mentor from a different discipline of the Primary mentor (i.e. one from Engineering/Physics/Chemistry and one from the Life Sciences) (PDF format)
4. Commitment to scientific training: a one-page single-sided document describing the applicant's commitment to scientific training detailing course work, rotations, and career goals, which should include how the applicant plans to support a diverse and equitable training environment. (PDF format)
5. Undergraduate and graduate transcripts (PDF format)

Submission Process

All application materials will be uploaded through the web based PGTP Application Form. Applications will not be complete until all documents are uploaded. All components are due by August 1st.

Review Process and Notification Dates

The PGTP admission committee, consisting of the PGTP Director, Dr. Backman, and three PGTP Advisory Committee members, that do not have mentees among the applicants, will review the applications. If the Director has a mentee as an applicant, then he will be replaced by another member of the PGTP Advisory Committee. The admissions committee will use a summary work sheet and ranking form to review the applicants. Rankings will be based on the strength of the student's academic record, prior research experience, transdisciplinary nature of the research project, mentor recommendations, a career plan demonstrating tangible evidence of interest in physical genomics research, and the student's commitment to supporting a diverse and equitable training environment. Ideal research proposals will clearly demonstrate innovation and novelty of proposed research, clear objectives, a detailed timeline, anticipated results and measurable outcomes, and research methods that are rigorous and feasible within the scope of the program. Reviewers will be required to submit their reviews and rankings by August 1st. The Program Director will use these reviews to finalize selections, while also considering program diversity in terms of underrepresented populations, gender, and preceptor lab.

Students and advisers will be notified via e-mail by **August 15th**.

Trainees will be appointed to the training grant **September 1st** to coincide with first quarter payroll.