



High School Catalyst Program

Updated January 2, 2024

The High School Catalyst Program (previously The Weill Cornell Medicine High School Immersion Program) is a partnership between the Weill Cornell Graduate School and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Postdoctoral Association. The High School Catalyst Program is designed to offer hands-on biomedical research experience to New York high school students. **We encourage applications from individuals from groups traditionally underrepresented in research careers in science, individuals with disabilities defined by the [NIH](#), individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who meet two or more of the criteria defined in [NOT-OD-20-031](#), and/or first-generation immigrant backgrounds.**

The goals and overarching expectations for the Catalyst Program are: **to provide high school students with a rigorous 6-week biomedical research experience through a fruitful mentor/mentee pairing as well as lively in-person programming including journal clubs, panels, and workshops.** At the end of the program, students will present their research in the form of a poster. The 2024 Catalyst Program requirements can be found below.

2024 Catalyst Program Requirements

- **Tentative start date: July 8th, 2024**
- **Tentative end date: August 16th, 2024 (6 weeks)**
- **FULLY IN-PERSON PROGRAM**
- High school student mentees are expected to be in the laboratory for **approximately 25 hours a week** with their mentor to advance their research skills and obtain hands-on experience planning and performing experiments.
- High School student mentees are expected to **attend their mentor's lab meetings** (with permission from the lab head) as well as program journal clubs, panels, and workshops throughout the program.
- High school student mentees will **present their research** to their peers at the conclusion of the program in the form of a **poster**.
- **Students will receive a stipend** for their 6 weeks of research and efforts in the Catalyst Program.

In general, high school students are expected to learn about their mentor's research area (typically will also include attending their mentor's lab meetings), assist with experiments at the bench, and present their findings and summer research topic at the conclusion of the program. Accordingly, graduate student and postdoc mentors are expected to provide mentees with the necessary reading materials

for introducing them to the research topic, design a scientific project for mentees at the appropriate level, and guide mentees through both the hands-on portion as well as the intellectual journey of the summer research experience. Importantly, mentors are expected to dedicate a significant portion of their time and effort to supporting their Catalyst mentees during the 6-week program. Mentor/mentee pairs should follow the basic program requirements below, but have the flexibility to exceed them.

For prospective students (not interested in or eligible for the Bioforce program):

We are looking for highly motivated, enthusiastic, and committed high school students for the Catalyst Program! Students **MUST BE 16 YEARS OF AGE** at the start of the program (unfortunately we cannot make any exceptions). If you are interested in applying, our application can be found below. **Applications for the 2024 Catalyst Program are due 11:59PM March 22nd, 2024.**

2024 Catalyst Application:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMJZjGnGVU-0s6_xRDxe2-ErTz9OkBO5HelaPoptjM0cNUXw/viewform?usp=sf_link