

## Frequently Asked Questions about the ASPIRE Program

### Who benefits from the ASPIRE Program?

Through ASPIRE, scholars earn 3 hours of undergraduate college credit, conduct mentor-supported research, develop tools to promote an understanding of medical research, and experience networking opportunities for career building.

### What is an average day in the life of an ASPIRE student?

This varies based on your research and as the program progresses. During the first month of the program, students split their time working with their mentor and completing coursework. Students are expected to attend each class period and work with the mentor to create their schedule. Once the course concludes, students spend the remainder of the program in the lab full time working on their research.

### What projects might I work on?

We are currently preparing a list of past project titles. However, the kinds of research projects that students work on is constantly evolving and vary based on each individual mentor pairing.

### How will I be paired with a mentor?

We use your research interests and do our best to match you with a mentor that aligns with your goals.

### What is there to do in St. Louis?

St. Louis is a thriving city with much to offer. There are many reasons to consider living here for a summer:

- Work a short walk from [the Loop](#). Washington University also has easy access to public transportation.
- [The City Museum](#) (Hint: it's not a museum. Think grown-up indoor playground.)
- The [Muny's Summer 2021 season of musicals in Forest Park](#). Free seating!
- [Free Wednesday summer concerts](#) at the [Missouri Botanical Gardens](#)
- [Shakespeare Festival St Louis](#)
- [4th of July in St. Louis](#)
- [Explore St. Louis](#)
- [Washington University Community Guide to the City](#)

## Application Questions

### Is the ASPIRE Program open to masters students?

No, you must be currently enrolled as an undergraduate in order to be eligible for ASPIRE. This also means that if you graduate in spring 2022, you are not eligible.

### Do I need previous Clinical Research Experience?

No prior clinical research experience is required.

**Is the ASPIRE program open to international students?**

Yes, as long as you are enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in a US institution. The ASPIRE program does not sponsor student Visas.

**Is my letter of recommendation due on the same day as the application?**

All application materials are due by the application deadline (mid-February) to be considered complete. We recommend requesting your recommendation letter as soon as possible to ensure it is received by the deadline.

**Where and how do I apply?**

To apply during the scheduled application cycle (November 1-February20), visit <https://crtcapply.dom.wustl.edu/>

## Summer Program Questions

**During what period is the participant supposed to be present at WUSTL?**

You must be on campus for the entire 8 weeks of the program (dates range from June 1-July 31).

**My school is on quarters/trimesters so I cannot be there until early June. Is this a problem?**

This is approved on a case by case basis. Generally, students are expected to be on campus for the full 8 weeks (starting on June 1<sup>st</sup>). If you know in advance that this may be an issue, please let us know right away so that we can review and determine if a delayed start can be accommodated.

**Will the university find me housing?**

We do not provide housing for ASPIRE students. However, we can send you details about on and off-campus housing and resources for you to coordinate prior to your arrival.

**Will I have a roommate during the program?**

If you would like to coordinate housing with another ASPIRE student, you can. Our program coordinator will connect all enrolled students prior to the summer and you can coordinate housing and/or meet one another.

**Will I be issued an ID card?**

After you arrive and complete your initial paperwork, we will process the creation of a student ID card. Much more information about the ID card and the facilities it gives you access to can be found [here](#).

**Will I have access to the Washington University athletic facilities?**

Yes! First, get a Washington University ID card. With this card, you can get access to the [Athletic Complex](#). (By default, your card will probably NOT give you access by swiping. You will likely have to purchase a summer pass and they will put a sticker on your card which you can show employees when you go in instead of swiping your card.)

**What is a wustlkey and how can I get one?**

A wustlkey is an electronic ID that will give you access to many campus services. It's basically a username and password. After you arrive, you have to wait until you are "in the system" and HR will send you an employee ID (which is also a username). Once you get this employee ID, you can apply for a wustlkey by going to [connecthelp.wustl.edu](https://connecthelp.wustl.edu), then go to How To and then How to Create a wustlkey.

**Will I have access to the Washington University library facilities?**

Yes! The library staff tells us that once you have an ID card and a wustlkey you should be automatically granted access to the library.

**Are there any scholarships available?**

Scholarships are available for Washington University students from [underrepresented groups in research and medicine](#). The scholarship includes tuition and a housing stipend.

**Why is there tuition required to participate in the program?**

Unlike many other summer research programs, ASPIRE offers both didactic coursework and clinical research experience. The tuition covers the course work component of the program.