

FACT SHEET

PUMAS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The PUMAS (Promoting Underrepresented Minorities Advancing in the Sciences) program is the flagship internship program at Gladstone Institutes. It's aimed to increase diversity in the sciences by providing paid lab experience to community college students from underrepresented backgrounds before they transfer to a 4-year institution to pursue a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM).

Throughout the course of the program, students are paired with a scientific mentor to work on an independent research project, and participate in weekly workshops where they improve their public speaking and communication skills, network with researchers at all career levels, and increase their understanding of different career paths in science.

The program launched in 2014 and is funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health through a grant that supports educational activities that enhance diversity in biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research.

Since its launch, 68 interns have participated in the PUMAS program.

PUMAS focuses on applicants who are historically underrepresented in biomedical research, including students of certain ethnic backgrounds (African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Pacific Islander Americans), students who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, first-generation college students, or students with disabilities, with an emphasis on candidates from California. The majority of PUMAS alumni are California natives, with several hailing from the San Francisco Bay Area, including San Francisco, Antioch, Oakland, San Jose, and Alameda.