Personal Statement Instructions

Your personal statement will be read by the selection committees of each summer program and in part, used to guide the selection of applicants. Your document can be uploaded as a Word (.doc or .docx) or Adobe (.pdf) document.

Step 1: Format

- First and Last Name must be at the top of all pages OR in the header.
- Spacing: Single or Double
- Word limit: 500 (minimum) 1,000 (maximum)
- Page limit: 2 pages
- Page minimum: 2 pages
- Page maximum: 2 pages
- Margins: 1-inch (all margins)
- Font face: Any
- Font size: 12 point
- Required citation or format styles (e.g. MLA, APA): No preference. Any style or format is acceptable.
- References: Not included in the 2-page limit
- Mentor Choices (CPRTP Summer Research Experience applicants only): Not included in the 2-page limit.

Step 2: Personal Statement Topics

Your personal statement must address the following areas:

1. Why you are interested in the MD Anderson Summer Experience?
2. What are you hoping to gain or achieve from this experience?
3. How would you benefit from this experience?
4. What are your educational goals?
5. Describe your research interests and please be specific (e.g. tobacco cessation, HPV, colon cancer).
6. Include any specific information about prior research, goals for future research and investigation.
7. [CPRTP Summer Research Experience applications ONLY]: Why are you interested in cancer prevention?

Step 3: Mentor Choices

For applicants of the CPRTP Summer Research Experience (Cancer Prevention Research Training Program) ONLY

Do NOT complete Step 3 if you are an applicant of the following 10 programs:

1. CPRIT-CURE Summer Research Program
2. U54 Partnership for Excellence in Cancer Research Summer Training Program
3. First-Year Medical School Student Program
4. Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP)
5. ITERT - Undergraduate Summer Research Training Program
6. SIRP - Summer Imaging Research Program
7. University Outreach Summer Program
8. King Foundation High School Program
9. SPCR – Science Park Summer Program in Cancer Research
10. Women and Minority Faculty Inclusion Summer Program

1) Search the faculty pages of the five (5) departments within the Division of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences (DCPPS) listed below. Each faculty name on the department page is hyperlinked to the faculty profile which describes their research.
   1. Department of Epidemiology Faculty
   2. Department of Health Services Research Faculty
   3. Department of Behavioral Science Faculty
   4. Department of Clinical Cancer Prevention Faculty
   5. Department of Health Disparities Research Faculty

2) Select from the list of participating CPRTP summer mentors at http://bit.ly/CPRTP-SummerMentor. NOTE: This list includes pre-approved faculty outside of the DCPPS. These faculty have an established relationship with the CPRTP and have previously collaborated with summer students on projects in cancer prevention research.

3) Students currently working (or planning to work) with faculty outside of the Division of Cancer Prevention (DCPPS) may list them as a potential mentor choice, but must make note of their current working relationship (see example on next page). If the applicant is selected, this non-DCPPS faculty will be required to submit a Cancer Prevention Project Description Form to the CPRTP Program Director, Dr. Shine Chang, for approval, before a match is made. This form will be provided by the program manager at the start of the mentor matching process.
I am highly interested in MD Anderson’s CPRTP Summer Research Experience because...

I am hoping to gain...

My path to...
My educational goals are to achieve academic success in my field of study. Theoia dkajfkda dakgiklagjda dagilakjga dgajklglj njda wpoamgkdlajgda tejhajtes htekshel lll.

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Mentor Choices

Mentor Choice #1: Dr. Sandy Spinach (currently working with Dr. Spinach)
Department: Gastrointestinal (G) Medical Oncology
Reason(s): In January of this year, I began working uncompensated, part-time with Dr. Spinach, to learn about colorectal cancer, its associated treatments and complications. I would like to continue working with Dr. Spinach.

Mentor Choice #2: Dr. Jamal Broccoli
Department: Epidemiology
Reason(s): I believe exploring the connection between diet, exercise, and cancer is something to look into more especially in populations that may lack access to healthcare and other items.

Mentor Choice #3: Dr. Juanita Pear
Department: Health Services Research
Reason(s): After witnessing my grandmother undergo chemotherapy and radiation, I've been interested in radiotherapy technology and recognize its significance in making treatments less taxing.

Mentor Choice #4: Dr. Lucy Apple
Department: Behavioral Science
Reason(s): Due to my previous work with genetic testing, I've become interested in its application for cancer prevention.

Mentor Choice #5: Dr. Bob Plum
Department: Clinical Cancer Prevention
Reason(s): I believe Dr. Duck's lab will also give me a chance to use my interest in genetics and the genome and apply it to a new topic and a new field.

Mentor Choice #6: Dr. Sally Banana
Department: Clinical Cancer Prevention
Reason(s): Breast cancer has played a role in my family, and I think working with Dr. Banana would give me the opportunity to learn more about this cancer and its risk factors.