History & Purpose

The Della Keats Summer Research Program provides an opportunity for the previous summer Della Keats students to return to undertake a six-week mentor guided research internship in a health-related field.

Research Program Information

- Each student is paired with a UAA researcher and works for that mentor as an intern for the duration of the program. As a part of this internship, students are expected to (with the mentor’s help) design, conduct and analyze an individual research project and to present their results publically at UAA at the end of the program.
- Students in the Summer Research Program live in the dormitories with the Della Keats Health Sciences students. Both groups join together and participate in the extracurricular activities.

Travel and Housing

Housing is provided at no cost on campus in a UAA dormitory for the length of the program.

Travel assistance may be available for qualifying students from rural Alaska.

Cost

There is no cost to participants in this program. A stipend is usually provided to help cover food and miscellaneous expenses. Due to the programs’ demanding schedules, students may not hold jobs or participate in other activities while participating in the summer research program.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the Della Keats Summer Research Program, an applicant must:
1. Have completed the Della Keats Health Sciences Summer Program or an equivalent program the previous summer;
2. Meet the eligibility criteria for the Della Keats Health Sciences Summer Program;
3. Be enrolled as a senior in high school at the time of application.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit:
- A completed Della Keats Health Sciences & Summer Research Programs application
- A sealed, official current high school transcript*
- PSAT/SAT/ACT scores if available
- Two sealed letters of recommendation from teachers [one of which must be from a science or mathematics teacher]
- Current photograph of self

*Ask your high school counselor how to obtain your transcript.

Acceptance is based on written responses to essay questions from the application form, letters of recommendation, high school academic performance, and a formal telephone interview.

Please note: Places in the Della Keats Summer Research Program are limited. The application process is a competitive one. Successful completion of the core Della Keats program (or an equivalent program) is an eligibility requirement. It is not a guarantee of acceptance.
Della Keats Program Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the Della Keats Program, an applicant must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or US Nationals or permanent resident and a resident of Alaska;
2. Be enrolled as a junior or senior in high school at the time of application;
3. Meet at least one of the following criteria:
   - belong to an ethnic minority group;
   - live in a rural area of Alaska;
   - speak English as a second language;
   - be a first-generation American;
   - be economically disadvantaged; and/or
   - be the first in his/her family to go to college

What Is Della Keats?

The UAA Della Keats Health Sciences Program is an intensive six-week program administered by WWAMI School of Medical Education. Its purpose is to help Alaskan high school students from minority, rural, and other disadvantaged populations step onto the pathway leading to high-demand careers in medicine and other health-science fields.

The program’s goals are to foster, affirm, and encourage high school students’ interest in health-care professions, and to help students make a successful transition from high school to college.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students stay on UAA campus receive a valuable introduction to college life. Participants take classes to introduce them to the premedical curriculum (Anatomy and Physiology, Public Health, Microbiology, and others).

Della Keats students gain first-hand knowledge of health-care careers by job shadowing health-care providers, touring medical facilities, and listening to guest presentations.

Participants also receive instruction in:
- Laboratory procedures
- Use of computers and other technology
- Research methods
- Written and oral communication
- Problem solving and test taking
- College survival
- Becoming a competitive medical school candidate
- Money management/budgeting

Returning Students

Students who have already successfully completed the Della Keats program, or an equivalent program such as UAF’s RAHI program, can apply to return for a second summer through the Della Keats Summer Research program. Each Della Keats research student is paired with a UAA researcher and designs, conducts and analyzes an individual research project under his or her mentor’s guidance.

For more details, see the other side of this pamphlet.

Travel and Housing

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