

PRE-HEALTH RESEARCH OPTIONS

TYPES OF RESEARCH

BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH

Usually referred to as traditional discovery-based research. Can be both wet lab or bench research and computational research.

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Often involves looking at the safety and effectiveness of diagnostic tools, drugs or medical devices. It is usually conducted on human subjects, samples, or images.

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

Includes the study of factors that can contribute to a certain aspect of the overall health of a community or population. Can be done domestically or globally.

HEALTH POLICY RESEARCH

These studies seek to understand how laws, policies and regulations influence health care and how changes within the system can improve outcomes.

PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH

These types of research utilize interviews with or observations of human subjects to analyze experiences and behaviors in certain contexts.

NARRATIVE MEDICINE RESEARCH

A relatively newer branch of medical research that involves listening to patient/caregiver stories to understand their experience.

OTHER TYPES OF PROJECTS

Examples include historical/anthropological investigations conducted for a thesis or book chapter.

RESOURCES



[HOW TO GET RESEARCH EXPERIENCE](#)

Research experience (in whatever discipline) is helpful for developing some of the AAMC Core Competencies, such as critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, scientific reasoning, as well as teamwork and oral communication skills. This resource will give you comprehensive insights into how and when to look for research experiences during your undergraduate career.

[SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMS](#)

This AAMC resource lists summer research opportunities at medical schools and affiliated universities across the US.

[CENTER for UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & FELLOWSHIP \(CURF\)](#)



Your one-stop shop at Penn to get all your research questions answered. Please use this resource to talk to peer and professional research advisors, find faculty advisors, learn about summer research opportunities, explore fellowship options, etc. Remember to sign up for their Canvas site and newsletter. Also check out [this resource](#) from CURF.



[GLOBAL RESEARCH and INTERNSHIP PROGRAM \(GRIP\)](#)

Interested in learning about research in a different country? Through GRIP, you can spend 8-12 weeks over the summer to work with international researchers.



[CHOP CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY FINDER](#)

Check out this database to learn about ongoing clinical research studies and clinical trials at CHOP. If interested in any, contact the study supervisor to inquire about opportunities to get involved.



[PENN MEDICINE CLINICAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES](#)

Check out this database to learn about ongoing clinical research studies and clinical trials at Penn Medicine. If interested in any, contact the study supervisor to inquire about opportunities to get involved.

Read more about pre-health research opportunities in [this blog post](#)

