

# 2007 Summer Research Experience

Issue Seven  
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## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (UGRAP)

<b>Company</b>	LSU Health Sciences Center
<b>Company Location</b>	Shreveport, LA
<b>Program Dates</b>	June 2007-July 2007
<b>Duration</b>	8 weeks

**Center for Undergraduate Research (CUR):**

How did you find out about the program?

**Jeromey Scroggins (JK):**

I found out about the program through a high school mentor. She encouraged me to apply so I could gain research experience.

**CUR:**

What made this program unique in comparison to others?



## Jeromey K. Scroggins

<b>Hometown</b>	Shreveport, LA
<b>Age</b>	19
<b>Major</b>	Biology Pre-Medicine
<b>Class</b>	2010
<b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	2007-2008 Class of 2010 Congressman, Mobilization at Xavier

**JK:**

UGRAP is a component of a pipeline of programs that involves students from pre-school up to first year medical students. It allows underprivileged students and minorities to receive a quality experience that gives them access to resources they may not be able to utilize elsewhere. In addition, participants have access to employees at the medical center, who encompass various medical professions that the participant may be interested in. Participants were also allowed tours to the library within the school, cadaver lab, animal resources, and had information sessions on physical/occupational/respiratory therapy, allied health professions, and cultural competence.

**CUR:**

Did the program pay for travel expenses, housing, meals, etc.?

**JK:**

Participants were paid a salary for forty hours a week at minimum wage.

**CUR:**

What type of research did you do in the program?

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[contd.]

**JK:**

The research I performed involved assisting in the development of a protocol that would organize the data and images generated by a MRS (Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy) scan.

**CUR:**

How was your relationship with your research mentor

**JK:**

My mentor was very resourceful and patient, as concepts were initially difficult to grasp. In addition my mentor's personality made the experience enjoyable and worthwhile.

**CUR:**

Did the program offer sufficient hands-on experience?

**JK:**

Considering the ages of the students who participate, a lot of hands-on experience is involved in every research project. From growing cells to writing computer programs, various types of research equipment are used by the participants.

**CUR:**

Did this program meet your initial expectations?

**JK:**

Yes, I had participated in a program similar to UGRAP while I was in high school, but I had to learn a considerably larger amount of information before I started the project.

**CUR:**

How has this program helped you in regards to your major or future goals?

**JK:**

UGRAP has helped me to better understand scientific language, as well as remind me how important it will be for medical professionals to be culturally competent in the future.

**CUR:**

If any, what aspect of Xavier helped you while at this program?

**JK:**

Biology 1230/1240 definitely eased my troubles pertaining to the nervous system! was able to comprehend what my mentor taught me about the nervous system from what I learned from Xavier biology!

**CUR:**

What was the most difficult aspect about this program?

**JK:**

Thinking critically was the most difficult aspect of the program for me. My mentor practically forced me to think outside of the box rather than feed me information. I am very appreciative of that despite the sometimes seemingly unbearable mental stress that I endured from the project!

*"UGRAP has helped me to better understand scientific language, as well as remind me how important it will be for medical professionals to be culturally competent in the future."*

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[contd.]

**CUR:**

Would you recommend this program to others? Why or why not?

**JK:**

I would definitely recommend this program to those seeking a career in medicine or an allied health profession. UGRAP exposes participants to all kinds of opportunities that they may not otherwise be aware of. In addition, for those who seek degrees in medicine, the medical students at LSUHSC are always happy to answer questions and offer advice pertaining to gaining acceptance in to medical school.

**CUR:**

How can others prepare for this program before applying?

**JK:**

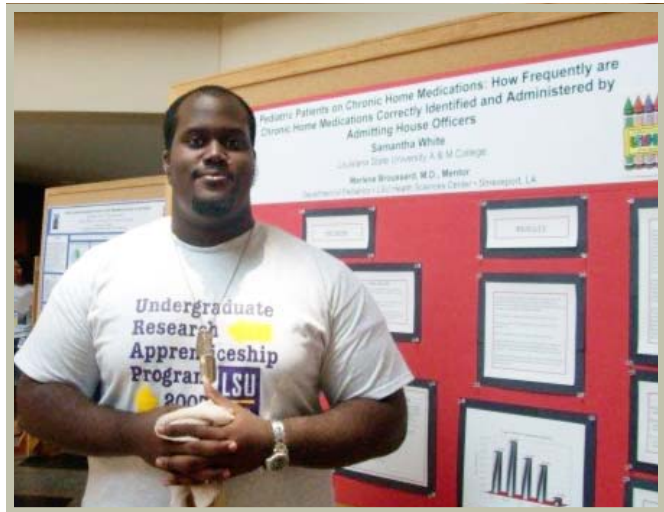
The application process usually starts in the spring around April. I believe that a GPA of 3.0 is required, along with letters of recommendation and an essay. The program is run through the Office of Multicultural Affairs at LSUHSC, by Director Shirley Roberson.

**CUR:**

Name the best part of your experience.

**JK:**

At the end of the program, being able to present what I helped develop via poster presentation was very rewarding. In addition, realizing that there's more to medicine than seeing a physician, but that scientific research is the basis for what we develop to treat patients around the world.



For more information regarding Jeromey's participation in the

**Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program**  
contact him at:

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