



Medical Plants of the Southwest Scholars NMSU RISE Undergraduate Scholars Program

NMSU RISE TO EXCELLENCE 2010 NIH R25GM061222

NMSU Undergraduate Application Instructions

Elba Serrano, Ph.D., RISE Program Director

What professional opportunities does the program provide for Scholars?

NMSU Medical Plants of the Southwest (MPSW) Scholars earn \$9.50/ hour for participation in RISE program activities. MPSW Scholars conduct original biomedical research in teams led by RISE mentors. MPSW Scholars are expected to attend professional development activities and disseminate their research results.

When can I participate?

<u>Session</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Application deadline</u>
Summer	May 24–July 2 (40 hrs/week maximum)	Monday April 19, 2010

Who should apply?

The RISE to Excellence Program seeks MPSW applicants with a sincere interest in majoring in the sciences and conducting biomedical or biobehavioral research with human health relevance. The program accepts applications from all students, especially those who have an interest in pursuing a major in the science, engineering, and math disciplines.

The RISE to Excellence Program is tasked by the National Institutes of Health, the funding agency, with diversifying the biomedical and biobehavioral research community. Applications are especially encouraged from minorities underrepresented in the sciences, first-generation college students, military veterans, disabled students, and students who have faced obstacles in obtaining the abilities, skills, and knowledge necessary to develop and participate in a research career.

What are the program prerequisites?

- Fall 2010 registration as a full-time undergraduate on the NMSU main campus
- good academic standing at NMSU, the same applies from the home institution for entering Freshmen.
- meet NMSU Student Employment Services (SES) eligibility requirements
<http://careerservices.nmsu.edu/SES_Handbook.pdf>
- science and math 3.0 GPA (preferred)
- U.S. citizen, a non-citizen national, or a permanent resident (as per NIH PAR-06-548)
- may be required to pass an NMSU background security check before position offer can be finalized

How do I apply?

Applications are available in **Foster Hall 369**. For questions, please use the contact information provided below.

RISE PROGRAM: Citlalin Xochime, Coordinator
Office: (575) 646-5726 | Office: Foster Hall 369
<rise@nmsu.edu>

Mail To: NMSU MBRS RISE TO EXCELLENCE
New Mexico State University Biology Department - RISE
MSC 3AF, PO Box 30001
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-8001

MPSW: Apply to the RISE To Excellence Program

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS. Gather and prepare the checklist items in REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS listed below. **E-MAIL DIGITAL (PREFERRED) OR BRING PRINT COPIES TO THE RISE OFFICE:**

TO: Citlalin Xochime, RISE Program Coordinator < rise@nmsu.edu >	Office: Foster Hall Room 369 Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
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REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

- RISE Application Form.** This application is available in the RISE Program Office in Foster Hall 369 or can be obtained by clicking on the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/N3BJVL9> Contact RISE Program Coordinator, Citlalin Xochime (646-5726) <rise@nmsu.edu> to schedule a one-hour appointment, to complete this application form in the RISE Program Office, or to help you with any questions you may have about completing the application.
- Personal Statement.** This document is an extremely important component, so please give your five statements much consideration. Address each of the five topics. For all the five topics, restrict yourself to **2 ½ pages double-spaced**—that is, write one-half of a page per topic. Material outside of the 2 ½ page limit will not be considered. Submit one print copy or digital file (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .rtf files only) of your statement to the RISE Office. On-campus applicants are advised to consult the writing services in the **NMSU Writing Center prior to statement submissions: Clara Belle Williams Hall - English Building, Room 102.** For entering Freshmen, consult someone at your school to help you write strong, thoughtful accounts.

The Personal Statement should consist of one paragraph for each of the following five topics:

 - What are your **educational goals** (BS, MS, PhD, etc.) and why is achieving these goals necessary for your chosen career?
 - Describe an example in your personal history in which you **demonstrated exceptional teamwork or interpersonal skills.**
 - Describe your experience with **medicinal plants.** Why are you drawn to the Medicinal Plants of the Southwest program?
 - Describe your interest or experience in biomedical research, particularly in regards to **ethnic minority issues or health disparities.**
 - Include a paragraph that shows your **commitment to the MPSW workshop.** Applicants should acknowledge the fact that this is a job; there are no extra days off and no vacations. Everyone is expected to show up on time, every day.
- Transcripts.** Current NMSU students must submit transcripts of all academic work from **all higher education institutions** you have attended. Entering freshman must submit transcripts of all academic work from **all educational institutions** you have attended. The NMSU Registrar’s Advising Document or unofficial transcripts are acceptable. Use the **Mail to: NMSU MBRS RISE TO EXCELLENCE** mailing address below to send non-NMSU transcripts to the RISE Office.
- Letter of Recommendation.** The Statement of Recommendation form may be e-mailed to rise@nmsu.edu (preferred) or mailed to the RISE Program Office. Use the **Mail to: NMSU MBRS RISE TO EXCELLENCE** mailing address below to send non-NMSU transcripts to the RISE Office.

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STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDATION

Student

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Recommender

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Affiliation: _____

Email: _____

Work/contact phone: _____

To the recommender:

This student is applying to participate in the Medicinal Plants of the Southwest (MPSW) program, sponsored by New Mexico State University. The MPSW program is funded by the National Institute of Health as part of the Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) Program at NMSU. The goal of the MBRS RISE program is to increase the number of minority students pursuing and obtaining advanced degrees in the biomedical sciences.

We would like to thank you for your time in completing this Statement of Recommendation. The information you provide will help the selection committee make a more informed choice as to the students admitted into the program, thus ensuring a more enriching experience for everyone involved. If you have any questions, please feel free Contact RISE Program Coordinator, Citlalin Xochime (646-5726) <rise@nmsu.edu>

STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDATION

Student's Name: _____

Please rank this student on the following criteria. Please place an "X" or checkmark in the column that best represents your assessment of this student.

	Upper 5%	Upper 10%	Upper 25%	Upper 50%	Lower 50%	No basis for judgment
Desire to be a scientist						
Intellectual ability and achievement						
Creativity and imagination						
Breadth of scientific knowledge						
Depth of scientific knowledge						
Eagerness to interact with others						
Leadership qualities						
Honesty and integrity						
Maturity						
Suitability for college-level work and research						
Comparison to other college-bound students						
Potential as a college student						
Probability of attaining a PhD						

If you have any other comments that you feel the selection committee should consider in making their decision, please make them below. If you need additional room, please feel free to attach additional sheets as necessary.

Thank you for your time and cooperation!

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