The Life-Health Sciences Internship Program (LHSI), part of the Indiana University School of Medicine, connects IUPUI life and health sciences undergraduates with paid research internships on and near campus during the academic year. LHSI was created to provide a bridge between existing freshmen retention initiatives and senior experiences with a target audience of sophomore and junior students interested in life and health sciences careers and a special aim at retaining and graduating students traditionally underrepresented in the sciences. Over 180 students have participated in this program since its inception in Spring 2007 with an additional 52 interns slated to participate in 2011-12. Approximately 67% of participants are female across all years of the program.

Prior to the start of the program, a collaboration agreement was reached with Deans and leaders of on-campus partners. Partner Schools and Locations:

**Student Participants**
- Purdue School of Science
- Purdue School of Engineering and Technology
- Indiana University School of Informatics
- Indiana University School of Liberal Arts
- Indiana University School of Physical Education & Tourism Management
- Indiana University School of Public & Environmental Affairs

**Mentor Participants/Locations**
- Indiana University School of Dentistry
- Indiana University School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Indiana University School of Medicine
- Indiana University School of Nursing
- Indiana University School of Optometry Clinics
- IU Health Methodist Hospital Research Laboratories
- IU Health Pharmacy Department

**Vision** The Life-Health Sciences Internship Program connects talented IUPUI undergraduate students in the life and health sciences with enriching experiences in laboratories, research projects, and other professional experiences on the IUPUI campus and in campus-affiliated locations.

**Mission** To educate, engage, and enlighten IUPUI life and health sciences undergraduates through on-campus internship experiences. We seek to achieve this through the following means:

1. Seeking out and arranging high quality internship opportunities in relevant fields.
   - Paid, mentored work for up to ten hours per week between August and May.
   - Many have been hired on by mentors after the end of the official internship period.

2. Nurturing mentor and intern relationships through structured meetings and gatherings.
   - Weekly check-in meetings between intern and mentor.
   - Monthly community-building events:
     - Panel discussion on medical school and other relevant health fields.
     - Career-related workshops.
     - Casual events such as an end of semester reception.
     - Celebration of National Student Employment Appreciation Week.

3. Providing opportunities and support to present work.
   - Interns participate in LHSI poster presentation event in April.
   - Competitive travel grants to attend conferences and meetings to present work.
**Goal** To improve career-relevant learning experiences, research experiences, and retention rates in IUPUI life and health sciences undergraduates. This is measured by:

1. Tracking GPA, future course enrollment, graduation data, and post-graduation enrollment or employment.

   **Participant Persistence and Graduation**
   **2007-2010 (first three cohorts)**

   - Graduated 69%*
   - Remain Enrolled 25%
   - Transferred 6%
   - Graduated 69%*
   
   *at least 42% of graduates are enrolled in post-graduate programs

   Post-graduate programs entered include:
   - Biomedical Engineering (MS)
   - Medical (MS, PhD)
   - Philosophy, Ethics (MS)
   - Genetic Counseling (MS)
   - Nursing (MSN)
   - Physical Therapy (MS)
   - Mathematics (PhD)
   - Optometry (OD)
   - Social Work (MSW)
   - Medicine (MD)
   - Pharmacy (PharmD)

   Early retention and graduation data were published under:

2. Self-evaluations, evaluations by mentors, evaluations of mentors, site visits by program director.

   A learning outcomes study of self-evaluations of the 2009-2010 cohort revealed statistically significant improvements in intern self-ratings of **written communication** \((p = .02)\), **application of classroom knowledge** \((p = .002)\), **proficiency in appropriate practices** \((p = .002)\), **data analysis skills** \((p = .03)\), and **knowledge of topic area** \((p < .001)\).

   "Learning Outcomes of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Undergraduates Participating in a Research and Professional Experience Internship Program," funded by the 2009 Midwest Cooperative Education and Internship Association Research Grant to Brandi Gilbert


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*Graduated 69%* at least 42% of graduates are enrolled in post-graduate programs

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**Life-Health Sciences Internship Program • Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis**

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