

# HEALTH-FAST

Helping Everyone Achieve a LifeTime of Health

Future Addiction Scientist Training

**Open only to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents.**

## DOCTORAL SCHOLARS APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Program Description

The HEALTH-FAST Program is designed to enhance the education and training of Doctoral Scholars with a particular focus on encouraging individuals who are from low-income households, low-resourced communities, or are first-generation college graduates. The program offers cutting-edge educational activities and transformative hands-on research and developmental experiences.

Doctoral Scholars will receive education and experiences that are designed to facilitate their graduation and strengthen their national competitiveness to secure a postdoctoral fellowship in addiction sciences and/or faculty research position in an academic or medical setting. The HEALTH-FAST Program offers outstanding training opportunities, including:

- HEALTH-FAST seminars on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use designed to develop in-depth and cutting-edge knowledge in substance abuse and its associations with chronic diseases. The upcoming year's focus is on tobacco and other drug co-use related research.
- Mentored substance abuse research project. Doctoral trainees can work with their mentors who will provide hands-on research experience, or will be matched with a faculty mentor for a research project (if needed).
- HEALTH-FAST Research Rounds to refine future research ideas, advance research methods, and enhance the trainees' presentation skills.
- Professional development seminars to enhance resiliency and retention in a research career.
- Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training.

### Eligibility

- HEALTH-FAST Doctoral trainees must be full-time doctoral students with two or more years remaining in their degree plans at the time of application.
- Applicants must have at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited domestic or foreign academic institution.
- Applicants should be in excellent academic standing as measured by adequate degree progress relative to program milestones.
- Applicants should not be gainfully employed >10 hours a week in a position or should be willing to relinquish it in order to fully participate in HEALTH-FAST programming while maintaining full-time academic status.
- This fellowship is only available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.



1515 Holcombe Blvd • Houston, TX 77030



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UHhealthfast.com



HealthFast@mdanderson.org

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## Funding

- Doctoral scholars receive competitive monthly stipends with the expectation that they will work 20 hours on their mentored research projects and engagement in other HEALTH-FAST programming.

## Terms of the Award

- Doctoral trainees must commit 20 hours a week to HEALTH-FAST programming for 9 months (academic year).
- Trainees are expected to dedicate about 15 hours a week in supervised research activities with their research mentor and about 5 hours in other program elements.
- Doctoral trainees are expected to participate in all relevant evaluation activities, including those that span beyond their active participation in the program (e.g., data collection).

## Application Components

**NOTE: Your application will not be accepted if any of the following items are missing, unclear, or incomplete. Please read these instructions carefully.**

- 1) Submit your application via email ([HealthFast@mdanderson.org](mailto:HealthFast@mdanderson.org)) by May 31, 2025 (5:00 PM CST). Include the following documents in one PDF file:
- 2) **Statement of Purpose**, a 2-page description of your education and research background, research and career interests and goals, and fit with the HEALTH-FAST Program. Explain how this program will help you meet your goals. References are not included in the 2-page limit.
- 3) A current **Curriculum Vita**.
- 4) A completed **Demographic Information Form** – [accessible here](#)

**Note:** A complete Letter of Recommendation from the applicant's major professor/advisor needs to be submitted directly to [HealthFast@mdanderson.org](mailto:HealthFast@mdanderson.org) no later than May 31, 2025 (5:00 PM CST). The Letter of Recommendation needs to be provided on the form available on the [website](#).

### FORMAT

**Margins:** 0.5 or 1 inch

**Format:** Single-Spaced

**Standard Paper Size:** 8.5 x 11

**Font Color:** Black

**Font Size:** 11 or 12 point font

**Font Types:** Arial, Times New Roman, or Georgia

**Top right corner of each page of the supporting documents must include applicant name & "HEALTH-FAST" (e.g., "Jane Doe – HEALTH-FAST").**



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## Application Review Process

### Phase 1: Initial Application

- All application components must be emailed to [HealthFast@mdanderson.org](mailto:HealthFast@mdanderson.org) by May 31, 2025 (5:00 PM CST).
- Confirmation of receipt and the application decision date will be e-mailed to the applicant within 2 business days after receipt of their application materials.

### Phase 2: Interview

- Finalists will be invited for a video conference interview.
- Interviews will last up to one hour and will include a discussion of the finalists' interests in substance abuse research, research experience, and long-term career plans.
- Acceptance decisions will be conveyed via email within 1-2 weeks after the interview.

### Application Review Criteria

The HEALTH-FAST program will use the following criteria when reviewing applications:

1. **Relevance:** Are the career and research interests of the applicant clearly described in the personal statement?
2. **Promise and educational benefit to the applicant's career development:** Will the HEALTH-FAST Program accelerate the applicant's interest in and career development toward transitioning into an independent research career in an area responsive to NIDA funding priorities? Does the applicant have the intellectual experience and work ethic to benefit from the HEALTH-FAST Program?
  - a. **Note:** Individuals from low resourced neighborhoods, low income households and who are first generation college graduates are highly encouraged to apply.
3. **Resources and Support:** Are the applicants' research interests aligned with those of the proposed mentors and existing resources?

### Important Information

- **All application documents are due by May 31, 2025.** Missing items will result in an incomplete application and will not be reviewed.
- Refer to the **HEALTH-FAST Program website** ([www.UHhealthfast.com](http://www.UHhealthfast.com)) for more information. If you have questions that are not answered by that information, please email [HealthFast@mdanderson.org](mailto:HealthFast@mdanderson.org).

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