

MOUNT HOLYOKE  
**CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

Phone 413-538-2080 / Fax 413-538-2081

**UNCF-MERCK UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP**

(UNCF-Merck Undergraduate Science Research Scholarship web site: <http://www.uncf.org/merck/>)  
We encourage all applicants to visit this website for more detailed information about the program

Online applications for the UNCF-Merck Undergraduate Science Research Scholarships are available at the above website. If you wish to apply, contact the Pre-Health and Science Advisor (Dr. David Gardner) in the Career Development Center to discuss your plans.

**TYPE:** Nomination by Mount Holyoke College required. Mount Holyoke may nominate an unlimited number of candidates for this award. Apply as a Junior.

**PURPOSE:** The UNCF-Merck Undergraduate Science Research Scholarship Awards are intended to encourage the interest of African American undergraduate students in furthering their science education and pursuing science careers by providing tuition support and opportunities for research experience in a state-of-the-art industrial laboratory.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Basic eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Be African American (Black)
- Be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident of the U.S.
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.3
- Be a full-time Junior (degree candidate in the 2008-2009 academic year)
- Be a life or physical science major interested in biomedical research (first professional and engineering majors are not eligible) and have completed two semesters of organic chemistry by the end of the 07-08 academic year
- Be committed to two summer internships at a Merck research facility

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** A UNCF Merck selection committee consisting of educators and Merck scientists will evaluate applicants and award recipients will be selected on the basis of their GPA, their demonstrated interest in furthering their scientific education and pursuing a career in scientific research, and their interest in and ability to perform in a laboratory environment.

**AWARDS:** At least 15 Undergraduate Science Research Scholarship awards will be made in 2008. Each award recipient will receive up to a maximum of \$35,000 which includes up to \$25,000 towards tuition, room and board, and billable fees. Each UNCF Merck Undergraduate fellow will be mentored by a Merck scientist and will receive two summer research stipends (subject to tax withholding), totaling at least \$10,000 if eligible. One internship will take place during the summer following the junior year and the other following graduation. The two ten to twelve-week Merck summer internships will take place at a Merck research facility in Rahway, NJ, West Point, PA or Boston, MA.

**SPECIAL NOTES:** The award recipient's department may receive a Department Grant of up to \$10,000 which is intended to support the research of the department and may be used to purchase research supplies and equipment or support scholarships for other students in the department. The actual amount of the grant will total the amount of funds remaining from the scholarship portion of the award after all tuition, room and board, and billable fees have been paid, up to \$10,000. **Although this is a merit award, a valid FAFSA Form must be on file in the financial aid office before a scholarship check can be issued.**

**PREVIOUS UNCF-MERCK FELLOWS:**

In the first UNCF-Merck Scholarship application year of 1995-96, a Mount Holyoke student majoring in Chemistry won \$25,000 toward her tuition, two \$5,000 summer internships, and a grant to her department of \$10,000. Another student was awarded this scholarship in 2007.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

If you are eligible to apply, you must register by creating a user account on the website at <http://www.uncf.org/merck/>. Click on the "register" button and fill in all required information (indicated by a red star). All applications and materials are also to be submitted in hard copy to the Career Development Center at Mount Holyoke College, for review by the Committee on Fellowships. Letters of recommendation are to be enclosed in sealed envelopes with a signature across the seal. Official transcripts should be enclosed in sealed envelopes with an appropriate institutional official's signature across the seal.

**PLEASE DO NOT STAPLE, LAMINATE OR BIND ANY PART OF THE APPLICATION FORM OR SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, AS THEY WILL BE COPIED FOR REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE ON FELLOWSHIPS!**

## **NOMINATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES:**

### **Wednesday, November 12, 2008**

Submit required documents, as outlined on the website, to the Pre-Health and Science Advisor (Dr. David Gardner) in the Career Development Center.

### **Monday, November 17- Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

The Committee on Fellowships interviews and selects nominees

### **Tuesday, December 2, 2008**

Final application is due to the Career Development Center

### **Monday, December 15, 2008**

Online applications and all supporting materials must be submitted online for receipt by the Director of the UNCF-Merck Science Initiatives.

***Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that each portion of the application, including letters of recommendation, is received by the appropriate deadline.*** If you will be requesting transcripts from other institutions or letters of recommendation from outside the College (particularly outside the U.S.), please do so immediately, as these materials can take several weeks to reach us. If you anticipate a problem meeting a particular deadline or have any questions concerning your application, please contact the Pre-Health and Science Advisor (Dr. David Gardner) at (413) 538-2080.