

## Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy

*A unique opportunity for students to experience the world of research science at an early age.*

- Purpose:** The vision of the Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Fund Biomedical Research Academy is to provide an immersive biomedical research education and college preparatory program for San Antonio high school students. Through a collaborative partnership with the UT Health Science Center, the goal of the Academy is to create a pipeline of the next generation of outstanding biomedical scientists for our community and the world. The Health Science Center has in place a wide array of successful enrichment programs which offer students across our community a broad range of experiences and insight into careers in the health professions in preparation for pursuing these professions in the future. The Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy will partner the very best rising sophomores, from a broad array of San Antonio school districts with outstanding biomedical scientists from UT Health Science Center over their high school career to promote excellence in scholarship and biomedical research training. In year 1, the Academy will consist of an immersive, hands-on, 7-week summer research program, in addition to participation in a number of special research oriented activities throughout the academic year. In years 2 and 3, students will participate in an 8-week, faculty-mentored research experience. By the year 2012, up to 60 Voelcker Scholars will be participating in the Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy. Students will be supported through student awards during the summers of the program and parental involvement is also required. The metric for success of the Voelcker Research Scholars Academy will be development of a pool of highly competitive students in San Antonio who successfully pursue future careers in biomedical research in our community.
- Who:** Up to 20 high school, rising sophomore students from the Greater San Antonio Area are expected to participate in year 1. Applicants must be recommended by two teachers, including one recommendation from a science teacher, and be classified as rising sophomores in the 2009 - 2010 school year. Criteria used to select candidates are class rank, transcript and essay.
- When:** June 17 - July 31, 2009 (Monday - Friday). An average day is from 5-8 hours.
- Where:** The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive  
*Scholarships for transportation cost available if needed.*
- Compensation:** The summer program is a **FULL TIME** commitment and will require a considerable effort from each participant. No other major activities should be planned for the duration of the program. Students will also be invited to activities scheduled during the academic school year and expected to make every effort to attend. At the conclusion of the summer program, students will present their work at an award reception and receive a **Voelcker Student Award of \$1,000.**
- Requirements:**
- **Parental permission and attendance at orientation and reception events**
  - **90 in mathematics class (85 or better if in honors or advanced placement)**
  - **90 or better in science and English (85 or better if in honors or advanced placement)**
  - **Must be in good standing in all courses**
  - **2 satisfactory teacher recommendations, including 1 science teacher recommendation**
  - **Satisfactory conduct grade**
  - **A well-written essay**
- How to apply:** Students must provide a completed application form including: a personal essay, letters of recommendation from two teachers, including 1 science teacher, and official high school grade transcripts. **Applications must be postmarked and/or received by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 1st 2009.**

**If you would like to obtain an application visit:**

<http://gradschool.toolbox.net/students/summer> or <http://www.uthscsa.edu/outreach/summer.asp>

**If you need additional information please contact:**

Irene Chapa, Ph.D.  
Office of Recruitment & Science Outreach  
UT Health Science Center San Antonio  
Office: (210) 567-3941, Fax: (210) 567-0399  
E-mail: chapai@uthscsa.edu

Sophia Piña, Ph.D.  
Assistant Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
UT Health Science Center San Antonio  
Office: (210) 567-3984, Fax: (210) 567-3719  
E-mail: pina@uthscsa.edu

## Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy Teacher Recommendation Form

**DIRECTIONS:** Please return this form either by fax to (210) 567-0399, email to [ebow@uthscsa.edu](mailto:ebow@uthscsa.edu) or mail to UT Health Science Center San Antonio, 7703 Floyd Curl Dr., MSC 7833, San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900.

**PART 1- TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT**

Full Legal Name: LAST: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ School District: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 2- TO BE COMPLETED BY THE TEACHER**

This is a rigorous and demanding program designed for motivated students with the ability to successfully learn and complete academic and technical tasks above and beyond standard school instruction. He/she is being considered for admission to the Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy for a 3-year period. For year 1 of the program, the Academy will require attendance and participation in program activities for an average of 5-8 hours a day during the 7-week summer internship scheduled to be held at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio campus from June 17 to July 31, 2009. The faculty-mentored research experience will be an 8-week program over the summer in years 2 and 3. Participation in additional Voelcker Biomedical Research Scholar program activities will be expected throughout the school year. Please give us your honest assessment of this student's desire and ability to learn.

A. PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE COLUMN FOR EACH CHARACTERISTIC LISTED.

CHARACTERISTIC	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE				
CONDUCT IN CLASS				
WILLINGLY PARTICIPATES IN CLASS				
RESPECTS OTHERS AND THEIR PROPERTY				
ABILITY TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS				
COMPLETES ASSIGNED WORK ON TIME				
ANALYTICAL THINKING SKILLS				
MATURITY				
PUNCTUALITY				
EAGER TO LEARN NEW THINGS				
STUDENT IS SUFFICIENTLY MOTIVATED TO COMPLETE A 7-WEEK SUMMER PROGRAM				
SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY				

B. Please provide a description of the student's capabilities, a discussion of character traits and provide specific reasons why they are well suited for participation in this 3-year program. **Additional comments may be written on a separate sheet.**

C. Current course you are teaching applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 TEACHER'S PRINTED NAME/TITLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
 SCHOOL TELEPHONE NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
 TEACHER'S SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE

**Application Deadline: May 1, 2009**

## VOELCKER BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ACADEMY APPLICATION

### SECTION A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (Last) _____		
Date of Birth: _____	Age: _____	Check One: Male___ Female___
Home Phone: (        ) _____		Cell Phone: (        ) _____
Mailing Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	ZIP Code: _____
Physical Address (if not the same as mailing address): _____		
City: _____	State: _____	ZIP Code: _____
E-mail Address: _____		
Citizenship Status: _____		

### SECTION B: FAMILY INFORMATION

<b>Father's/Guardian's Name:</b> _____		
Address: _____		Phone: _____
City: _____	State: _____	ZIP Code: _____
Level of Education:		
<input type="checkbox"/> High School Diploma/GED <input type="checkbox"/> Associates Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Masters Degree	<input type="checkbox"/> Some College <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelors Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Professional	
<b>Mother's/Guardian's Name:</b> _____		
Address: _____		Phone: _____
City: _____	State: _____	ZIP Code: _____
Level of Education:		
<input type="checkbox"/> High School Diploma/GED <input type="checkbox"/> Associates Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Masters Degree	<input type="checkbox"/> Some College <input type="checkbox"/> Bachelors Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Professional	

### SECTION C: ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Current School Attending: _____
Magnet Program (if applicable): _____
Grade Level in Fall 2009: _____
School and Community Activities/Clubs: _____

## VOELCKER BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ACADEMY APPLICATION

### SECTION D: ESSAY, GRADE TRANSCRIPTS AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

**Essay:** Your essay should NOT exceed one, double-spaced page. Describe yourself and discuss EACH of the following as part of your essay. You are NOT limited to these areas.

1. Important academic experiences in science
2. Important academic experience in other areas
3. Extracurricular activities that have influenced you in a positive way
4. Activities that have influenced you in a positive way
5. How your experiences, including participation in this program, will influence your plans in the future

**Grade Transcripts:** Include an official copy of your current high school transcripts.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Include **two** letters of recommendation: one from a high school science teacher, and one from any other teacher. The letters should include but are not limited to a description of the student's capabilities, a discussion of character traits and provide specific reasons why they are well suited for participation in this program.

### SECTION E: SIGNATURES

#### Consent to Release Information Record

Pursuant to the Family Education Rights and the Privacy Act of 1974, which requires written consent for the release of information outside of school. Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy respectfully seeks the right to request the release of any or all educational records as listed below if needed:

- Record of grades (transcript)
- Class rank
- GPA (grade point average)
- Standardized test scores
- Email address (to be used for communication between students and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), other programs students, and/or potential mentors)
- Students photo (photos are taken during Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy activities- they are used for publications representing the Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy or UTHSCSA)

**By signing below, you are giving your consent for your son or daughter to apply and participate in the Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy with the expectation that this could be a 3-year commitment. You are also giving your consent for the Voelcker Biomedical Research Academy to access the above mentioned information and records for purposes of advisement and applicant selection.**

Student's Signature:	Date:
Parent's Signature:	Date: