Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity

BUILD PODER

Promoting Opportunities for Diversity in Education and Research

Application Workshop

Vanessa Cisneros
Mirranda Salas
What is BUILD PODER?

Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) Promoting Opportunities for Diversity in Education and Research (PODER) is an undergraduate research training program funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Goal – attract and train students to develop a career interest in health and social justice through the study of biomedical research and community advocacy.
Where do I Apply?

www.csun.edu/build-poder
Link takes you directly to the application

Status bar helps you keep track of progress

Automatically saves as you click to next page
Instructions

1) Please complete this application online
   * list two faculty members or supervisors who are willing to write recommendations
2) Mail or submit in person to the Psychology Department
   * one copy of your unofficial CSUN transcripts

Deadline: March 2, 2015 at 5pm

Mailing Address

California State University Northridge
Psychology Department, BUILD PODER
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8255

Currently, we have no method to upload your transcripts, mail them!
Eligibility

- Current CSUN undergraduate
- Full-time student
- **Juniors:** Completed at least 60 units of college-level courses (but still have 2 years remaining in degree program)
- **Sophomores:** completed at least 24 units of college level-courses
- All majors welcomed, but must have an interest in biomedical research topics (e.g., health and health disparities), and must be committed to earning a Ph.D.
- Cumulative GPA of **3.00** or higher  
  *Sorry, no exceptions!*
- U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident
- Committed to attending a doctoral program after graduation of bachelor's degree.
Eligibility (con’t)

Recruitment and retention of the following classes of students:

A. Individuals from underrepresented in health-related sciences on a national basis: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.

B. Individuals with disabilities

C. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who are defined as:
   1. Low-income (see guidelines [http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/14poverty.cfm](http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/14poverty.cfm))
   2. Individuals who come from a social, cultural, or educational environment such as that found in certain rural or inner-city environments that have demonstrably and recently directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career.
**CSUN only: Which Program do I Choose?**

Which BUILD PODER program are you applying to?
- BUILD PODER TRAINEE (sophomore)
- BUILD PODER SCHOLAR (junior)

**TIP:** Fewer than 60 units completed? Have 3 years left of college? TRAINEE
60 units +? Have 2 years left of college? SCHOLAR

**TIP:** You cannot apply to both programs
6 Sections of the Application

- Contact Information
- Recommenders’ Information
- Education
- Demographics
- Educational Experiences
- Essays
Contact Information

NAME (First Name, Middle Name, Last Name)

HOME ADDRESS (Street, City, Zip Code)

**TIP:** If you are living away from home, Enter both your Temporary address and your Permanent home address.

EMAIL

**TIP:** Enter email addresses that you actually use.

HOME PHONE NUMBER

**TIP:** Enter phone numbers where we can actually reach you. We will call to set up an interview!

CELL PHONE NUMBER

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
Recommenders’ Information

Please name two individuals who will provide a recommendation letter on your behalf. We will send a link directly to the recommender. Be sure to provide sufficient time for your recommender to submit your letter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommender 1</th>
<th>Recommender 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Recommender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title of Recommender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College/University/Business Name</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
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</table>

**TIP:** Ask your faculty, counselors, advisers, supervisors, etc. as soon as possible if he/she is willing to write a letter of support for you.

**TIP:** Complete Contact Info and Recommenders’ Info early so that we can email your recommender.
Education

**PRIMARY MAJOR**

**SECONDARY MAJOR**

**TIP:** Leave these sections blank if you don’t have a second major or a minor

**MINOR**

**MAJOR GPA**  **TIP:** You must calculate this yourself

**CUMULATIVE GPA**  **Hint:** You can find this in your unofficial transcripts

**CSUN ID #**
## Calculating Major GPA

Use a GPA calculator:
http://www.back2college.com/gpa.htm

Sample Psych Student

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit/Units</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psy 150</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 140</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psy 250</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GPA: 3.3**
Educational Experiences

**COURSEWORK**

Please list the college/university, course numbers, course names and grades for all courses taken in statistics, methodology, content, and theory related to your major.

(Course / Date Taken / Grade Earned)

**TIP:** List all of the courses you have taken for your major

**PRESENTATIONS / PUBLICATIONS**

Please list all professional presentations or publications (including on-campus presentations not in classes). If none, please state “NONE.” List all presenters in order (bold your name), date of presentation, title of presentation, and conference name and location.

For example:


**HINT:** Most applicants will not have any experiences presenting or publishing. It is okay to state “NONE”
Demographics

**AGE**

**COUNTRY OF BIRTH**

**Are you a:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>YES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. citizen?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. veteran?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Person with a verifiable disability?</td>
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**Are you a legal permanent resident of the U.S.?** (Type "No", or Write your Registration # if "YES")

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>YES</th>
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* If yes, write Registration #

**What is your Race/Ethnic/National descent?**

Type "YES" to all those that apply, and Specify the ethnic group membership (e.g., If you select "Asian American", you can specify ethnic group "Chinese, Vietnamese, etc.")

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnic/National descent</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>Specify</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicano/Mexican American</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central American</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latina/o - (other)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td></td>
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Type "YES" for group membership

Type subgroup if needed under "SPECIFY"
Essays

Please answer the following questions by writing short essays (200-300 words per essay)

1. Involvement in research: Please provide a brief summary of all of your research experience including course work, work with professors, work with peers, and independent research. What was the purpose of the research? What type of training did you receive? What skills did you acquire?

TIP: Few applicants have any research experience. Just write about any experience you have had in asking a research question, collecting data, and interpreting your findings.
Essay # 2 - Goals

2. Please describe, your 5-year and 10-year educational and occupational goals. How will BUILD PODER help you to achieve these goals? What other activities are you engaged in that will help you to reach your educational and occupational goals?

**TIP:** Be honest. We know that goals may change.
Essay# 3 – Research Area

What area(s) of research are you interested in? How far have you pursued this interest (e.g., haven’t reviewed literature but only thought about; have reviewed literature and hope to perform a study)?

**TIP:** Think about an area are you interested in researching? What do you already know about this area?

**TIP:** Don’t leave this section blank. Be creative.
Essay #4

Please write briefly about your top 3 choices for a BUILD PODER lab at this time based on the descriptions from the BUILD PODER website. You may elect to choose only one or two labs. How do your skills and interests match with the lab’s studies and mentor? What do you think you will learn from this lab? What do you have to contribute to this lab? You will have a second opportunity to re-rank your selections after hearing more about each research opportunity.

TIP: List of “Potential” mentors is at www.csun.edu/build-poder
Essay #5 – Your Contributions

How would your participation in PODER contribute to the program goals of increasing the number of underrepresented students (UR) in the sciences?

**TIP:** Think about how you qualify for BUILD PODER. Go back to eligibility of the program A. Ethnic minority? B. Disability? C. Low-income?

Write about how you can contribute to the goals of PODER
Last Chance to Make Changes

Thank you for applying to BUILD PODER. We will contact you soon regarding the status of your application. We will be emailing the recommenders you listed for letters of support.

If you have any questions about BUILD PODER, please email Mirranda Salas (BUILD Office Manager) at BUILDPODER@csun.edu.

**TIP:** Make any changes to your application by clicking on the “BACK” button. Once you click on “NEXT” you cannot modify your application.
More TIPs

• For essays, we recommend that you type out your essays on Word or a word processing program and then copy and paste.
  – Spelling and grammar check
  – Word Count

• Remember, the first year of any program is the least competitive – so go for it – apply!

• Have questions???
Questions??
Ask BUILD PODER Staff

Mirranda Salas, Office Manager
buildpoder@csun.edu

Vanessa Cisneros, Communications
build@csun.edu