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Identify 1-6 different Participating Academic Units (PAUs) within your application. Scholars may only be selected from the included Participating Academic Units.

You will likely think about PAUs as departments or majors. These are the unique units from which you will select your Beckman Scholars. **Beckman Scholars are selected from majors that provide meaningful preparation for laboratory-based biological and/or chemical research**.

When listing Participating Academic Units, name individual majors (e.g., Chemistry or Biology), rather than larger entities (e.g., College of Arts and Sciences). Beckman Scholars can only be selected from the PAUs included on your Institutional Data Sheet (IDS), potential mentors can be selected from any home department, regardless of whether that department is listed as a PAU on the IDS.

Mentors do not need to be associated with the same departments as the identified PAU(s) but consider the impact on your Scholar pool to facilitate alignment in research/academic interests of potential Scholars with potential Mentors.

Start Here: How to decide if a Participating Academic Unit is Eligible.

Does the major primarily focus on chemistry, biochemistry, biology, or biomedical sciences?
→ **Yes** → *Eligible*
→ **No** → Go to next question.

Does the major require substantial wet-lab, dry-lab, or bench-based research training?
→ **Yes** → *Potentially eligible* (e.g., neuroscience, biotech, bioinformatics with lab research) → Go to next question.
→ **No** → Likely *not eligible*.

Is the major aligned with chemical, biological, or biomedical research—either experimentally or through interdisciplinary research (e.g., biophysics, computational biology, biochemical engineering)?
→ **Yes** → *Eligible if students can participate in biological/chemical research with approved mentors.*
→ **No** → Not eligible.

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Determining Eligibility: Quick Check

A major is likely eligible if:

- It is primarily based in chemistry, biochemistry, biology, or biomedical sciences; **and**
- It includes meaningful laboratory research and training; **and**
- Students can participate in wet-lab, dry-lab, bench-based, or chemical and/or biological research with approved Faculty Mentors.

If these conditions are not met, the major should **not** be listed.

Participating Academic Units Guidance

Beckman Scholars Program (BSP)
One-Page Institutional Reference

Purpose of Participating Academic Units

Participating Academic Units (PAUs) identify the undergraduate majors from which an institution may select Beckman Scholars. Only students enrolled in these designated majors are eligible for consideration.

The intent of limiting PAUs to designated majors is to ensure that Beckman Scholars are selected from majors that provide meaningful preparation for laboratory-based biological and/or chemical research.

Below is a categorized list to assist you in determining PAU eligibility.

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1. Chemistry & Biochemistry

These majors always qualify and must include laboratory biological and/or chemical research:

- Chemistry

- Biochemistry
- Chemical Biology
- Analytical Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry (if a standalone major)

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2. Biological Sciences

Life-science majors with a substantial lab/science curriculum typically qualifies, and must include laboratory biological and/or chemical research:

- Biology
- Molecular Biology
- Cell Biology
- Microbiology
- Immunology
- Integrative Physiology (if associated with substantial laboratory-based research)
- Genetics
- Human Biology
- Physiology
- Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
- Marine Biology
- Neuroscience* (if associated with substantial laboratory-based research)
- Plant Biology / Botany
- Zoology
- Biological sciences with substantial laboratory-based research

*Neuroscience is nearly always accepted because it is considered a biological/medical science discipline.

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3. Medical & Biomedical Sciences

These majors are eligible as they fall under “biological and medical sciences” and must involve laboratory-based biological and/or chemical research:

- Biomedical Science
- Biomedical Engineering (if curriculum includes laboratory-based biological and/or chemical research and students work with wet-lab or dry-lab, bench-based, biological and/or chemical research mentors)

- Human Biology
- Health Sciences (if associated with substantial laboratory-based research)
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Pharmacology/Toxicology
- Pharmacy Science
- Medical Laboratory Science
- Pathology (undergraduate)

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4. Interdisciplinary Majors Commonly Considered Eligible

These majors combine chemistry, biology, or biomedical science with another discipline and must include laboratory biological and/or chemical research:

- Biophysics
- Behavioral Science (if associated with biology or chemistry-based laboratory research)
- Bioinformatics
- Computational Biology
- Biostatistics (if research-based)
- Environmental Science (if associated with substantial biology and/or chemistry laboratory-based research)
- Biotechnology
- Chemical Engineering* (if curriculum includes laboratory-based biological and/or chemical research and students work with wet-lab, dry-lab, bench-based, or biomedical mentors)
- Materials Science (if associated with biomaterials or chemical research focus and wet-lab, dry-lab, bench-based, or biomedical based)
- Other interdisciplinary life-science fields with significant biological and/or chemical research components.

* Chemical Engineering is nearly always accepted because it is considered an interdisciplinary science discipline.

Eligibility for interdisciplinary majors depends on whether:

1. The curriculum is primarily based in **biology, chemistry, or biomedical sciences**, and
2. Students can reasonably pursue **wet-lab, dry-lab, bench-based, or biomedical research** with the approved faculty mentors.

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Majors That Usually Do *Not* Qualify

These majors are outside chemistry or biological/medical sciences and most likely do not conduct chemical or biological laboratory research and are likely not eligible *unless the major is associated with biology and/or chemistry laboratory research*:

- Aerospace, aeronautical and astronautical/space engineering
- Physics (unless a biophysics track)
- Mathematics or Statistics
- Computer Science (unless a bioinformatics track)
- Computational Science
- Engineering programs without chemical or biological research (e.g., Mechanical, Electrical, Civil)
- Psychology (non-neuroscience or non-biological tracks)
- Public Health (non-laboratory-based research)
- Environmental programs
- And other non-research-based majors should not be included
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The intent of the Beckman Scholars Program is to provide meaningful preparation for laboratory-based biological, chemical, and medical sciences research. Majors that do not meet this criteria may not be submitted.

Submitting non-qualifying majors will result in an ineligible application.

Still Not Sure?

If you do not see a Participating Academic Unit listed that you would like to include in this application, please contact bsp@beckman-foundation.org to discuss that PAU's eligibility; including an ineligible major/department will result in an ineligible application.