

**APPLICATION FOR 2026-2027 POSTDOCTORAL NIEHS FELLOWSHIP
INTERDISCIPLINARY TRAINING PROGRAM IN TOXICOLOGY
AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF TRAINEES

Persons with a Ph.D., D.V.M., or M.D. and sponsored by FACULTY PRECEPTORS in our T32 Interdisciplinary Training Program in Toxicology and Environmental Health are eligible to apply. Applicants must be a Citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Fellowship appointments are for 12 months and consist of a stipend, which is dependent on years of postdoctoral experience as outlined in the most recent program announcement from NIEHS, and a travel allowance of \$600. A second year of funding may be possible contingent on adequate progress in the program and available funding.

The applications are accepted when there is an open call for applicants and will be evaluated when positions become available. Preference will be given to applicants whose **career and research interests** are in Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, Nanotoxicology, or Cancer Toxicology. Each application must include all items listed under number 3 below. **Incomplete application packages cannot be considered.**

T32 Eligibility: Postdocs who are currently *advised by our T32 Training Grant in Toxicology and Environmental Health faculty preceptors* at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign are eligible to apply. Applicants must be working in a T32 faculty members lab and be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident of the United States to be considered for a T32 postdoctoral position.

The applications are due by **11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026**. Applicants should have **career and research interests involving** Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, Nanotoxicology, or Cancer Toxicology. Each application must include all items listed below. **Incomplete application packages will not be considered.**

Please read the directions carefully and submit **all** materials to the Program Coordinator, Synthia Lane, via email (silane@illinois.edu) in a single PDF document **11:59 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026**.

Please organize the documents in your application packet in the order specified below. Ensure that none of the documents in your application are locked or password-protected. Secured/locked materials will classify your application as incomplete.

Each application must include the following (format single-spaced, 1" margins):

- 1) **A completed Application Form** (attached), **signed by the student's research advisor (T32 Toxicology Program Faculty Preceptor)** as evidence that they have read and approved the proposal.
- 2) **A Career Goal Statement** that clearly identifies the linkage to Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, Nanotoxicology, or Cancer Toxicology (**½ page limit**).
- 3) **A Research Plan** that clearly identifies the linkage to Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, Nanotoxicology, or Cancer Toxicology. The Research Plan must include the following sections: (1) the rationale for the research, (2) the hypothesis to be tested, and (3) a summary of the methods to be used (**2-page limit**). **The student's proposed research advisor must sign off on the research proposal as evidence that he or she has read and approved the proposal.**

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4) **Graduate Transcripts**, which must include courses and grades for the last four years of study (can be unofficial). Note: a list of courses and grades **cannot** be substituted for actual transcripts.

5) **Curriculum Vitae (2-page max)**. Include all publications, presentations, honors/awards/recognitions in graduate school.

6) **Sponsor Letter**: T32 applications must be accompanied by a letter from a sponsoring UIUC Faculty member who is a current preceptor on the T32 Training Grant in Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, Nanotoxicology, or Cancer Toxicology. This letter should state that the faculty member sponsors the applicant for the fellowship and permits the applicant to perform the proposed research under their direction.

7) **Three letters of recommendation**: One from your primary advisor (see above) and two other professional references. Each letter should comment on the applicant's intellectual ability, capacity for original thought, aptitude for research, dependability, integrity, and demonstrated interest in Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, Nanotoxicology, or Cancer Toxicology. Note: If the faculty member writes letters for more than one student, he/she must rank the students.

Please ask your references to submit their LOR on official letterhead to Synthia Lane, sjlane@illinois.edu in PDF format, clearly indicating the applicant's name in the document and the email sent. Letters of recommendation are the only pieces of the application we will compile into the application packet on behalf of the applicant. The remaining application materials must be combined in 1 pdf file and submitted by the applicant to **Synthia Lane, sjlane@illinois.edu**

Please note Program Details and Requirements:

- T32 Postdoctoral Fellowships are available **only to citizens or permanent residents of the United States**.
- All trainees must attend the weekly Toxicology Seminar Series (CB596) and events, participate in Toxicology Open House and events, participate in the Toxicology Journal Club, and receive training on Ethics in Toxicology.
- Trainees will be required to present and discuss their research in the program and are strongly encouraged to present their research at national meetings.
- Preference will be given to postdoctoral trainees who are interested in pursuing an independent research career. Selection will be based on academic success, the relevance of proposed research to program goals, and commitment to toxicology.
- A review committee of Faculty from the Training Grant in Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, Nanotoxicology, and Cancer Toxicology will screen the applications. Program review will be conducted annually by the Steering Committee. Subsequent funding years beyond the first year are determined by a committee review of the student's progress and are subject to funding availability.

Applicants will be evaluated on several points:

- 1) Strength of scholastic record.
- 2) Career goal statement and its linkage to Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, Nanotoxicology, or Cancer Toxicology.

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- 3) Research plan and its linkage to Reproductive Toxicology, Endocrine Toxicology, Neurotoxicology, Nutritional Toxicology, Nanotoxicology, or Cancer Toxicology.
- 4) Recommendation by a Faculty Preceptor and two other reference letters.
- 5) Availability of research funding.

Application Packet Submission Requirements

To be considered for review, your complete application packet must be received and fully complete by the **11:59 p.m. deadline on the stated due date. Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted.**

Your application must be **compiled into a single PDF document** with all required components assembled in the designated order listed below. ***Submissions that are not in this format, are missing required elements, or are not compiled into a single PDF will be disqualified from consideration.***

Required order of materials in the single PDF file:

1. Completed Application Form
2. Career Goals Statement
3. Research Proposal
4. Academic Transcripts
5. Copies of important publications
6. Curriculum Vitae
7. Letters of Recommendation – To be sent to sjlane@illinois.edu
 - a. Mentor/PI Letter
 - b. Two additional references

Important Note on Transcript Files:

Transcripts provided through official services such as Parchment or sent directly from universities often contain undetectable built-in security features that prevent them from being merged into a larger PDF document. These transcripts can typically be opened, viewed, and saved with no issues, but when you attempt to compile them into a single PDF, the security settings are triggered, and software such as Adobe Acrobat will display a warning indicating that the protected document cannot be included. As a result, the transcript will be excluded from the final compiled PDF file - often without additional notice. Please ensure that your transcript documents are successfully added to the PDF file.

It is your responsibility to identify and resolve this issue in advance of submission. If your transcript(s) cannot be merged due to these protections, you must troubleshoot an alternative method to ensure they are properly included in your single PDF application packet. We will not add materials on your behalf or accept separate files.

You are expected to verify that all required documents are present, accessible, and in the correct order in your final submitted packet.

For UIUC Graduate Students – Access to PDF Compilation Tools

If you do not currently have access to software that allows you to compile PDF documents, UIUC offers free resources for students through the UIUC WebStore. Visit <https://webstore.illinois.edu/home/> and click on Shop Personal Purchases. Then select Adobe Products and choose Adobe Creative Cloud Enterprise Access for UIUC Students Personal Use (Expires 08/01/2026). This software package is free to currently enrolled

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UIUC students. After downloading, you will create an Adobe Creative Cloud account and install Adobe Acrobat through your Creative Cloud profile. Once installed, you will be able to compile and manage PDF documents for your application.

Completed applications should be emailed to:

Synthia Lane, Program Coordinator
Department of Comparative
Biosciences
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Illinois Urbana-
Champaign
sjlane@illinois.edu
217-300-6465

Please note the Training Program Requirements:

- Postdoctoral Fellowships are available only to citizens of the United States or permanent residents.
- All postdoctoral appointees will be required to submit a fellowship or grant proposal during their appointment period as a trainee.
- All trainees must attend a weekly toxicology seminar series (CB596) and events, participate in Toxicology Open House events, participate in the toxicology journal club, and receive training on ethics in toxicology.
- Trainees will be required to present and discuss their research in the program and are strongly encouraged to present their research at national meetings.
- Preference will be given to postdoctoral trainees who are interested in pursuing an independent research career. Selection will be based on academic success, the relevance of proposed research to Program goals, and commitment to toxicology.

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*Applicants should complete this application form and convert the entire application package to PDF.
(Please type or print in black ink.)*

1. Complete Legal Name:
2. University Identification Number (UIN)
3. Campus Address and e-mail Address:
4. Telephone Numbers:
Office/work number:
Cell phone:
5. Your Sponsoring Faculty Member (Training Grant Preceptor) & Department:
6. List Scholarships, Prizes, Honors, or other recognition:
7. List the names, titles, institutions, and addresses of the additional two persons who will submit letters of reference on your behalf (not including your faculty sponsor).

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Past Education:

School/University	Degrees	(Major/s & Minors)	Dates (to/from)	GPA