



## Program Description

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The Science Training and Education Program at Southwestern (STEPS) is a no-cost, intensive, non-residential four-week college preparatory experience (no weekends) consisting of science and math courses, collaborative research experiences, and community and skill building activities for students who are interested in science and math. Exposure to a range of scientific experiences, college readiness workshops, research techniques, creative works, and other growth opportunities are core to the program's mission.

STEPS students take daily biology, chemistry, and math courses taught by full-time Southwestern University faculty and staff. These courses blend classroom study with laboratory experiments, individual and group projects, as well as field trips and other activities. All of the courses are designed to allow STEPS students to experience college science and math classes with a focus on helping them build confidence in their abilities and encouraging them to continue their education in the sciences.

STEPS students also have the opportunity to participate in several collaborative scientific research projects. Research rotations in chemistry, biology, physics, and psychology (animal behavior) laboratories allow STEPS students to conduct hands-on scientific research using state of the art instrumentation. Each student participates in 3 research rotations, and will work in the research laboratory on a daily basis for the duration of the program.



STEPS students analyzing a crime scene in Forensic Biology lab.

STEPS students also participate in a number of activities designed to help them build specific skills as well as engage them within the Southwestern University scientific learning community. All STEPS students take part in laboratory safety training. Students also learn about scientific journals and research tools in the campus library. STEPS students participate in daily group activities that are coordinated by Southwestern undergraduate student mentors. STEPS students learn how to make scientific posters and at the end of the 4-week program, students present their research in a poster session attended by the participants' families as well as Southwestern University students and faculty. The poster presentations will be followed by a celebration dinner.



2011 STEPS students, Southwestern undergraduates, and faculty mentors.

The Science Training and Education Program at Southwestern begins Monday, June 4, 2012, and ends with a family celebration event on the evening of Friday, June 29, 2012. STEPS classes and activities occur from 8:30 am – 5 pm Monday through Friday. Funds are available to help offset the cost of travel to and from the Southwestern University campus.

The Science Training and Education Program at Southwestern primarily focuses on recruiting rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are financially needy, first generation college students, or from groups underrepresented within the sciences (e.g., Latina/o, African American, Native American, female). Other students are also welcome to apply.

## Southwestern University

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Southwestern University is a selective, nationally recognized, undergraduate liberal arts and sciences college with an enrollment of 1,300 students. It is the oldest institution of higher learning in Texas. For more information visit [www.southwestern.edu](http://www.southwestern.edu).

## Interested in Applying?

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Applications will be available starting in March 2012 in the "Recent News" section of the Southwestern University Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry website at [www.southwestern.edu/departments/chemistry](http://www.southwestern.edu/departments/chemistry).

## Questions?

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