

HYRS Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

Q1: I am a Grade 12 student interested in HYRS, am I eligible to apply?

A: Grade 12 students are not eligible for HYRS. The HYRS program is intended for Grade 11 students as it helps them experience lab research as they prepare to apply to post-secondary education. If you are a Grade 12 student interested in conducting health research for the summer at the University of Calgary, please consider applying to other opportunities such as the Alberta Innovates [Summer Research Studentship](#) program.

Q2: Can I still apply for the HYRS program if I received an 84% in biology 20?

A: Unfortunately, you would not be eligible to apply with 84%. Applicants must meet the 85% grade requirement for further consideration of their application.

Q3: I am a Grade 10 student interested in HYRS, am I eligible to apply?

A: The HYRS program is intended for Grade 11 students as it helps them experience lab research as they prepare to apply to post-secondary education, as they will be graduating the following year. Grade 10 students are not eligible for HYRS, however if you are working on an accelerated timeline, have taken the necessary Grade 11 courses (Math 20-1/20-2, Bio 20, and either Chem 20 or Physics 20) and will be graduating in 2025 you may qualify. Please contact rsotraine@ucalgary.ca to confirm. A letter from your Principal or Vice-Principal may be required as proof of your accelerated timeline and expected graduation.

Q4: If I have completed both Biology 20 and 30 with an average of 85% or better but did not achieve 85% in another Grade 11 Science, can I substitute my Biology 30 mark for the second Grade 11 science requirement?

A: No, unfortunately if you have taken Chemistry and Physics 20 and did not achieve an 85% you are not eligible for HYRS.

Q5: I have completed both Physics 20 and Chemistry 20 as well as the Math requirement for HYRS but have not taken Biology 20, can I be considered for HYRS?

A: Training in biology is necessary for working in the relevant labs. If you have not already completed, and are not currently enrolled, in Biology 20 you are not eligible for HYRS.

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Q6: I am currently taking Physics 20 and have above 85% in that course. My Chemistry mark is 83% and I have completed both Math 20 and Bio 20 with an average above 85%. In this scenario, will the only two science courses taken into account be Physics 20 and Bio 20?

A: Yes, we require Bio 20 and Math 20 however as you have reached 85% or better in Physics 20 we do not need to consider your Chemistry mark.

References

Q7: The references process is confusing, what are my responsibilities for this section?

A: For this application, you are required to have three (3) references – 2 from science teachers (or one science and one math teacher) and 1 from a Non-Academic referee. When you submit your application you will include the names and email addresses of your 3 references. They will then receive an automated email with a link to complete their reference. You need to ensure that the information you enter for your references is accurate and ensure that your references complete their reference form online by the posted deadline. Any references not received by the deadline will not be considered, and applications are considered incomplete and ineligible if they are missing a reference.

Q8: What are some examples of an acceptable Non-Academic reference?

A: The Non-Academic reference needs to be from an adult, who is not a relative, and is from outside of your school. Examples can include private music teachers, volunteer coordinators, work supervisors, scout or guide leaders, community sports coaches, etc.

Q9: Does the Community Member reference need to live in the same community that the student lives in?

A: The Community Member reference is an adult, who is not related to the student and is from outside of the student's school. They do not need to live in the same community as the student.

Q10: The structure of my school is not traditional, and I don't feel that I have the relationship or bond with any of my teachers to approach them in providing me with strong teacher references for this application. What can a student in my position do about references?

A: It is vital that the adjudication committee have the opinions of independent authorities regarding your academic performance and abilities, so two teacher references must be provided. Please contact our office at rsotraine@ucalgary.ca to provide us with some more details about your situation.

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Q11: Will I receive an email when all of my references have submitted their applications?

A: Only the referee receives a confirmation email when their reference is submitted. Please ensure you communicate regularly with your references to ensure they have received the link to their reference form for your application and have completed it. In the event your reference did not receive the automated email please contact our office at rsotraine@ucalgary.ca for further instructions.

Q12: Will an email be sent out when all of my references have submitted their forms for the application?

A: No, you will not receive a confirmation email in this scenario although your references will receive a confirmation once they have submitted their form. Please keep in regular contact with your references to ensure they have received the automated email and completed their reference prior to the posted deadline.

Q13: I applied for the HYRS program and used a family friend as my Non-Academic reference. Because of this, the questions regarding an organization do not really apply. What should my reference do for those questions?

A: The Non-Academic reference should answer all of the reference questions within the context that they know you. If your referee does not feel they can appropriately evaluate you on the criteria in the reference form we recommend you find a different referee that can speak to your abilities in those areas.

Q14: Is it possible to change my teacher reference after I have submitted my application?

A: It may be possible to change a reference listed in your submitted application in exceptional circumstances. Please contact our office at rsotraine@ucalgary.ca for further information.

Q15: For this program, all of my teachers have given me written/ printed out references, not the online reference. Can I mail my application, essay, and references and everything else in an envelope stamped by the school in the mail?

A: Only applications and references submitted online through our application portal will be considered.

Q16: I was requested to provide a reference for a student's application and have done so; however, I have now received an email requesting completion of a reference.

A: The online application system generates an automated email to all listed references once the student's application is submitted online. If you are receiving this email for the second time it is possible we did not receive your reference, please contact our office at rsotraine@ucalgary.ca with your name and the student's name that you are providing the reference for and we will confirm in our records.

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Report cards & transcripts

Q17: Are the grades from MyPass acceptable to submit as proof of my academics?

A: The grades from your MyPass are unofficial and we therefore cannot accept this document. We require an official transcript, stamped, and approved by your school office.

Q18: I have been asked for an 'interim report' by a student to show proof of their grade standing in my class. What information do you require in this report?

A: A letter stating the student's current grade in the class, stamped, or signed off by the school, would be sufficient. We will also need the most recent report card available, as well.

Q19: Is it advantageous to have all three level 20 science courses completed (ie. Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) for the application and does having Chemistry instead of Physics (or vice versa) have a difference in weight?

A: Each of the science courses is weighted the same. Biology is a requirement for eligibility to the program and cannot be waived, however Chemistry and Physics are treated equally in the eligibility requirements. However, the courses you have completed may affect which kinds of laboratories you could be matched with if you are awarded.

Q20: Should I submit my transcript or my report card?

A: It depends. We request your transcript/report card because we need verification of your grades in Biology 20, Math 20 (-1 or -2) and either Chemistry 20 or Physics 20. Therefore, you should submit all necessary documentation to show proof of the grades you have or are currently achieving in each of the required courses.

For example, if you have **already completed** all of these courses and they do not show up on your current report card, we will only need a copy of your transcript. If you are **currently taking** all of the required courses for HYRS eligibility this semester we will need your current report card. If you have completed some of the required courses and are currently taking the other required courses we will likely need your transcripts and report cards to verify your grades in past and current courses. Please do note that if your uploaded transcripts do not include sufficient details about your current and/or final marks in all required courses your application will be marked as incomplete and not considered for adjudication.

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Administration

Q21: What are the specific hours a student will work if they are accepted into HYRS? Would this be in the morning, afternoon, or evening?

A: Regular hours mean that students are expected to work 35 hours per week, Monday – Friday. The exact schedule within a given day will vary depending on the lab the student is matched with and will be communicated to the student at the start of the program.

Q22: Will the students be researching a predetermined project or will they have to choose one?

A: Mentors for the HYRS program are recruited and asked to provide a brief description of a project for the student. Students will be matched with a supervisor who will determine the project that the student will work on.

Q23: Is any previous lab experience necessary?

A: No, previous lab experience is not required, but may be beneficial.

Q24: I am interested in applying for the program but will be required to miss time during the scheduled 6 weeks of HYRS this summer. Am I still eligible?

A: All applying students are required to give an attestation in the application that they are able to commit to the full 6 weeks of the program and understand and acknowledge that time off is not permitted. If you anticipate requiring time off during the scheduled program you will not be eligible for award.