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 84% in one of the required courses?

A: Unfortunately, you would not be eligible to apply with 84%. Applicants must meet the 85% grade requirement for further consideration of their application. If you are re-taking the course, or have taken a 30-level course instead, you could still be eligible to apply.

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 during their Grade 12 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 high school in the year following HYRS you may qualify. Please contact hyrs@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 we need to see an *additional* science course (Chem or Phys 20 with 85% or higher). Therefore, you cannot use Bio 30 as a substitute for one of these other science requirements.

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 completed Bio 20 and are not currently enrolled in it, 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 20-1 (or 20-2) 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, Math 20-1 or 20-2, and one other 20-level science course. In this case, we will consider your Physics 20 course, and will not consider your Chemistry mark. You will need to provide proof of your current enrollment and interim grades in Physics 20 when submitting your application.

Q7: I took a 20-level course and received less than 85%, but I took (or am taking) a 30-level course in that same subject. Can I use the 30-level course to meet the course requirement?

A: Yes! We can use a 30-level course instead of a 20-level course. If you are currently enrolled in the 30-level course, we need to see a copy of your report card, interim report, or any other official form of proof that you are currently enrolled *and* what your current grade is in that course. You will need to submit this proof of enrollment in addition to your current grades in the class in order for your application to be deemed eligible.

Note: All applications must include an official transcript. If you are currently enrolled in a prerequisite course, also include an interim report card or signed teacher letter showing your enrollment and current grade. Combine all documents into one PDF before uploading. ***Applications missing any required documents will be marked incomplete and will not be reviewed.***

References

Q1: What are my responsibilities for the Reference section of the application?

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. Links to the reference assessment forms will be posted on the HYRS Website, along with the Student Application. You must guide your references to the webpage, where they can complete the assessment. 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. Please follow up with your references. It is the student's responsibility to ensure all 3 reference assessments and the student application are submitted by the application deadline. Without the complete reference assessments, your application will be deemed incomplete and will not be evaluated further.

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Q2: 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. *Exceptions are made for sports coaches and teachers leading school clubs who are not currently teaching the student.* Examples can include private music teachers, volunteer coordinators, work supervisors, scout or guide leaders, community sports coaches, etc. Teachers and other school staff overseeing activities relating to credit courses are not eligible; Work Experience supervisors, school Band/Choir executive team, Phys Ed teacher, etc

Q3: Does the Non-Academic reference need to live in the same community that the student lives in?

A: The Non-Academic 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. They need to be able to speak to the students work and character in non-academic settings.

Q4: 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 hyrs@ucalgary.ca to provide us with some more details about your situation.

Q5: Will I receive an email each time one of my references is submitted?

A: Yes. Both you and your referee will receive a confirmation email each time a reference is submitted. It is ultimately your responsibility to ensure all parts of the application are complete, so please stay in regular contact with your references and make sure they know where to find the reference assessment form on the HYRS webpage. If you or your referee do not receive a confirmation email, please contact our office at hyrs@ucalgary.ca to check that the reference was received.

Q6: Will I receive a separate email once all three of my references have been submitted?

A: No. You will only receive one confirmation email for each individual reference. Keep track of these emails to make sure all three references have been submitted before the posted deadline.

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Q7: 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.

Q8: 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 hyrs@ucalgary.ca for further information.

Q9: 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. Direct your referee to the Reference Assessment Form on the HYRS webpage and fill out the online Student Application Form before the application deadline.

Q10: I submitted a reference for a student but did not receive a confirmation email. What should I do?

A: Once a reference is submitted, both the referee and the student receive a confirmation email. If you did not receive one, it is possible we did not receive your reference. Please contact our office at hyrs@ucalgary.ca with your name and the name of the student you are providing the reference for, and we will confirm in our records. You may have to resubmit.

Transcripts, DARs, Report Cards, oh my!

Q1: Are the grades from MyPass acceptable to submit as proof of my academics?

A: Yes, we may accept grades from MyPass.

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Q2: 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: No. Biology is a requirement for eligibility to the program and cannot be waived; however, Chemistry and Physics are treated equally in the eligibility requirements. The courses you have completed may affect which kinds of laboratories you could be matched with if you are awarded, but there is no preference between Chemistry and Physics in the selection process.

Q3: Should I submit my transcript, DAR, or my report card?

A: It depends on whether you have finished your prerequisite courses. A transcript or DAR is always required, since we need to see all of your grades.

1. **If you have completed all of the required courses,** we only need your transcript or DAR showing your final grades.
2. **If you are currently taking any or all of the required courses,** we need your transcript or DAR **AND** proof of enrollment for each course still in progress, such as a current report card, interim report, or signed teacher letter. This proof must show your current grade and be signed or stamped by your teacher or high school office.

Please note the application webform only allows you to upload one document, so you will need to combine your documents into one PDF if #2 applies to you. If you are selected, you will need to submit your final transcript before the program start date.

Administration

Q1: 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.

Q2: 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 mentor who will determine the project and timeline that the student will work on.

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Q3: Is any previous lab experience necessary?

A: No, previous lab experience is not required.

Q4: 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.