Atlanta VA Health Care System · SPARK

2027 Application Questions

Summer Program for Advancing Research Knowledge

Fields marked * are required. Fields without an asterisk are optional or apply only when relevant.

Personal Information

Complete all fields. Use legal name as it appears on government-issued identification. Optional fields are clearly marked. Leave optional fields blank if you prefer not to respond.

Name & Identity

Full Legal Name:

- Last: *
- First: *
- Middle: (optional)
- Preferred Name (if different from legal name):
- Date of Birth: *

Contact Information

- Mailing Address — Street: *
- City: *
- State: *
- ZIP: *
- Phone (Primary): *
- Phone (Secondary / Optional):
- Email Address (Primary): *
- Email Address (Institutional / University): *

Academic Background

Complete all fields. Attach official or unofficial transcript(s) as required. Current Institution (must be within the Atlanta VA catchment area).

- Current Institution (must be within the Atlanta VA catchment area): *
- Campus Location / City: *
- Department / Program of Study: *
- Degree Sought: *

[ ] Master's (M.S. / M.A. / M.P.H. / M.S.W. / other master's degree)
[ ] Doctoral (Ph.D. / M.D. / Ph.D./M.D. / other professional doctorate)

- Specify degree: *
- Expected Graduation Date: *
- Current Year in Program: *

[ ] 1st
[ ] 2nd
[ ] 3rd
[ ] 4th
[ ] 5th or beyond

- Do you have a graduate transcript available? *

[ ] Yes [ ] No

If Yes, upload one or two graduate transcripts. Undergraduate transcripts are required for everyone.

- If No, explain why a graduate transcript is not available. *

1500 character limit. Required if you answer No.

- Previous Research Experience *

Enter N/A if you have none.

1500 character limit

- Honors, Awards, Fellowships & Scholarships *

Enter N/A if you have none.

1500 character limit

- Publications, Presentations & Posters *

List any published articles, conference presentations, or poster presentations. Use standard citation format. If none, write N/A.

1500 character limit

Research Interest & Proposed Project

- Primary Research Area of Interest *

Select one primary area.

[ ] Health Services Research
[ ] Clinical Research
[ ] Basic / Translational Science
[ ] Mental Health & Behavioral Research
[ ] Rehabilitation Sciences
[ ] Health Disparities & Equity Research
[ ] Aging & Geriatrics
[ ] Other:

- Secondary Research Area of Interest (if applicable)

1500 character limit

- Specific Topic or Research Question of Interest *

Briefly describe the specific topic or question you would like to investigate during the fellowship.

1500 character limit

- Preferred Research Methodology *

Check all that apply.

[ ] Qualitative
[ ] Quantitative
[ ] Mixed Methods
[ ] Laboratory / Bench Research
[ ] Clinical / Patient-facing Research
[ ] Data / Epidemiological Analysis
[ ] Systematic Review / Meta-analysis
[ ] Other:

- VA Research Resources, Databases, or Clinical Populations of Interest

Describe any specific VA resources, datasets (e.g., CDW, CPRS, MVP), or patient populations you hope to work with, if known.

1500 character limit

- Career Goal Alignment *

Essay — Personal Statement - Describe how this fellowship aligns with your long-term academic or professional trajectory

1500 character limit

Short Answer Responses

- 1. Evidence of Research Thinking (200 words max) - Describe a specific research, lab, clinical, or data project you've worked on. What was one decision or problem you had to work through, and how did you approach it? *
200 words max

- 2. Research Reasoning Prompt (150 words max) — no prior experience required - Veterans with chronic conditions (e.g., diabetes, PTSD, cardiovascular disease) often face challenges maintaining treatment plans after leaving a clinical setting. Propose one way you might investigate why this happens. You don't need prior research experience — we're interested in how you think about a problem, not a "correct" answer *
150 words max

- 3. Fit & Goals (150 words max)- How does this specific program — not research in general — fit into your training and career goals? *
150 words max

The 2 questions below are to help us find a good research team for you for the summer.

- 1. What skills do you bring that would make you a strong contributor to a research team this summer (e.g., statistical analysis, lab techniques, clinical experience, data management)? *
1500 character limit

- 2. Is there a particular VA researcher, lab, or ongoing study you are especially interested in working with? *
[ ] Yes [ ] No

- If so, why? *
Name the researcher, lab, or study and explain why you are interested. Required if you answer Yes.
1500 character limit