Questionnaire for Prospective Yoder-Himes Undergraduate Student Lab Members

# Last modified August 2017

This short questionnaire will help me better assess whether you will fit well into the Yoder-Himes lab. I ask it of all prospective students who wish to work in my lab. If after reading about the lab on our web page and going through the questions you are still interested in working with me, please send me your completed questionnaire and I will review it. If you seem like a good fit with our lab, I will request an in-person interview. Note that the interview process is long and includes meeting with Dr. Yoder-Himes and a second interview with members of her lab. All must agree that you will fit in.

1. Why do you want to work in a lab?

Since I am on a pre-medicine track with plans of attending medical school, I have had several experiences shadowing physicians in various fields. These experiences have increased my interest in medicine, but I understand that a large part of medical school and the profession of a physician is also research. I want to work in a lab in order to get experience of the research aspects of medicine so that I can understand more fully what it will be like to pursue medicine.

1. Why do you want to work in the Yoder-Himes lab?

I am interested in the Yoder-Himes lab because it has a strong focus on Cystic Fibrosis and the bacteria living in that environment. It definitely focuses on medically-related research, which I find relevant to my interest in medicine.

1. Have you taken any microbiology–related courses at UofL or elsewhere?

I have only taken BIOL 240 and am currently in BIOL 242 and BIOL 244.

1. What areas of microbiology interest you the most?

I am not very familiar with the different areas since I have not taken a microbiology class, but I find immunology and other areas that are related to humans and human development interesting.

1. When will you be graduating and what will your degree be?

I will be graduating in 2022 with a biology degree and a minor in Spanish.

1. What kind of schedule do you expect to be working in the lab (days of the week, hours available)?

I am available Wednesdays 12 PM-5:30 PM, Thursdays after 2:15 PM, and all day Fridays. Beginning February 19, I will be available Tuesdays after 2:15 PM and Mondays 12 PM-5:30 PM.

1. Are you able and willing to commit to at least one year of work in the lab, with a minimum of 10-20 hours/week for that year, and up to 5 additional hours of additional lab related activities (lab meeting, journal club(s),  planning meetings regarding your project, lab duties)?  Given the nature of the work we do, this time frame is the minimum you can invest and expect to leave with a successful project and/or a strong set of skills.

Yes I am.

1. Your work in the lab may also require you to be there weekends and evenings, if protocols or cells require tending.  Can you accommodate such a schedule, or would you need a project that has regular hours?

I will be able to accommodate.

1. What are the most important experiences that contribute to you being well prepared to participate in laboratory research?

I will be well prepared if I am given visual and hands-on explanations and training.

1. How will performing independent research in microbiology make you a better candidate for your future career goals?

I will not only have better responsibility/time management skills, but I will also have better teamwork ability. Performing independent research will increase my knowledge about lab procedures and other general biological facts while also giving me early experience to methods I will be using in my future career.

1. Please describe how you would make the following solution: For convenience, let's say glucose has a molecular weight of about 100. Describe the steps you would take to make 100ml of a 0.1M solution.

Set up the equation to find the amount (g) of glucose needed.

* 1. L x 0.1 mol x 100 g = 1 g glucose

 1 L 1 mol

Then add 1 g glucose to 100 mL water.

1. Will you be trying to write a thesis (Honors, M.S., Ph.D.)? Participate in research for credit? Volunteer? (Indicate which, or which combinations)

I am currently volunteering in the lab.

1. What areas of biology and/or techniques and skills are you most interested in learning about in our lab? (If you have a preference regarding the system in which you work  -- microbial pathogenesis or environmental microbiology -- please note this here.)

I am most interested in learning how to culture bacteria and control them in specific environments.

1. What skills do you already possess which will help you in the lab?

I have rudimentary knowledge of biology labs such as working with microscopes. I have cultured bacteria once in high school, so I am familiar. I am responsible, hard-working, and always interested in learning something new which will help in the success of the lab/my projects.

1. What microbiological/molecular techniques are you familiar with?

I have cultured bacteria one time, so I am slightly familiar. I have knowledge about gram-staining, but no lab experience with it. I am familiar with microscopes.

1. What are your current career goals?

I am currently interested in going to medical school and becoming a physician.

1. What do you expect to give to the lab?

I expect to add to the success of the lab and bring about more results that improve or add to the current research.

1. Do you anticipate needing to take time off for MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc preparations? Will you be taking summers off in the foreseeable future?

I will not be in Louisville this upcoming summer.

1. Can you please list names and contact information for 2-3 professional references that know you well?

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