



## ÉXITO! FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQs will continuously be updated over the course of the application period.

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*Éxito! Latino Cancer Research Leadership Training* is led by Dr. Amelie Ramirez of the Institute for Health Promotion Research at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, thanks to a National Cancer Institute grant (1R25CA134301-01A2), with support from the Cancer Therapy & Research Center, *Redes En Acción* and the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Visit us at <http://www.exitotraining.org/>

## ÉXITO! PROGRAM - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**1. What is *Éxito!* Latino Cancer Research Leadership Training?**

A training program for master's-level students and master's-trained health professionals consisting of an annual 5-day Summer Institute in San Antonio, Texas and paid Internships annually.

**2. What is the purpose of *Éxito!*?**

*Éxito!* aims to encourage minority master's-level students and professionals to pursue a doctoral degree and a career in Latino cancer health disparities research.

**3. So it's for those who know they want to get a doctorate & study cancer?**

No, not exclusively! *Éxito!* is designed to introduce individuals to the opportunities in a career in Latino cancer health disparities research. For individuals already interested in pursuing a doctoral degree and/or a career in cancer research, *Éxito!* will provide you with the tools needed to make the next step.

**4. But I'm really not interested in cancer. Is this still for me?**

Yes. Many people think of microscopes and lab coats when they think of cancer research, but virtually any interest one may have in public health is represented in cancer control research. The cancer health disparities research fields include: the study of disease trends and etiology in populations; research on how to change behavior for health promotion, including health communication; environmental epidemiology; health economics; policy research and advocacy; health psychology; and many more public health topics. In particular, there is a great deal of cancer health disparities research that focuses on underserved populations, including how to conduct valid research across cultures and identifying and eliminating disease disparities.

**5. What is unique about *Éxito!*?**

*Éxito!* has two main components: an annual Summer Institute in San Antonio, Texas and paid internships. The five-day *Summer Institute* features Latino researchers and faculty members who share their research and experiences in the field of health disparities and cancer control research. Participants also receive tools, resources and advice on how to apply, get accepted and complete a doctoral program. The *Internships* give students research experience and allow for an opportunity to improve research skills. Those who complete the Summer Institute are eligible to apply for one of several paid internships.

**6. When was *Éxito!* established?**

*Éxito!* was established in 2010 by the Institute for Health Promotion Research (IHPR) at The UT Health Science Center at San Antonio thanks to funding from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The program is modeled after a similar training program, the Minority Training Program in Cancer Control Research (MTPCCR) at

the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The MTPCCR began in 1999 and continues today.

**7. How many people have participated in *Éxito!* so far?**

Currently there are 59 *Éxito!* alumni. Fifteen alumni are currently enrolled in doctoral programs and nearly half of our alumni have applied to doctoral programs.

## ÉXITO! APPLICATION - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Where can I find the *Éxito!* Summer Institute application?

The *Éxito!* program application can be found on our IHPH *Éxito!* website:  
<http://www.exitotraining.org/apply>.

### 2. How do I apply for the *Éxito!* Internship?

*Éxito!* has two components, the Summer Institute and internship opportunities. The internships are not mandatory for applying to the Summer Institute but we encourage all those applying to the Summer Institute to also apply for an internship. To apply for an internship you must complete the Summer Institute application and the *Éxito!* Internship application.

*Note: The summer institute and Éxito! internship application have unique web links.*

Summer Institute Application: <https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/exito>

*Éxito!* Internship Application: <https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/exitointernship>

### 3. Can I mail in my application or components of my application?

No, the application must be submitted using our electronic application. All supporting documents—transcripts, letters of recommendation, CV's, etc.—must be uploaded as part of your electronic application.

### 4. When is the *Éxito!* program application due?

The program application is due Friday, March 7, 2014 by 12:00 am (CST).

### 5. Who is eligible to apply for the *Éxito!* program?

To be eligible for the *Éxito!* program, you must be:

- A minority Hispanic/Latino\* student in a master's level health program\*\* or master's trained professional,
- Be in good academic standing (minimum "B" average)
- Have strong verbal, written, interpersonal, and organizational skills

*\* We define "minority Hispanic/Latino" as those communities who are underrepresented and experience an excess or unknown burden in the field of health disparities and cancer control research.*

*\*\* Students must have completed their first semester of a master's program by the start of the Summer Institute.*

### 6. I am not an American Citizen, am I eligible to apply?

Due to the limited number of spaces for the *Éxito!* program, preference will be given to citizens of the United States. Women, minorities, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

**7. I am not an American Citizen and I want to apply for the program. Is there any legal and/or financial information that I need to know?**

Yes, if accepted into the program and/or internship, *Éxito!* will cover you're airfare, lodging and transportation cost. In addition, if you participate in an internship you will receive a \$5,000 honorarium. These expenses are covered by *Éxito!* and considered payments. International students will be required to pay taxes on these expenses. The cost may vary, it is ESTIMATED that cost may be up to \$250 (it is possible they may exceed this amount). To learn more about international student payments please visit the following website: <http://www.uthscsa.edu/ois/>.

**8. I am currently applying for doctoral programs but have not been accepted. Am I still eligible to apply for the *Éxito!* program?**

Yes, as long as you have not been accepted into a doctoral program at the time of applying you are eligible to apply. ***Current doctoral students or those already accepted into a doctoral program are ineligible to apply.***

**9. My master's degree is not in public health, am I eligible to apply?**

Yes, master's degrees in other disciplines are accepted. This program is designed for master's-level students or master's trained professionals interested in pursuing a doctoral degree and career in cancer research.

**10. What if I cannot get two letters of recommendation?**

Applicants are required to provide two letters of recommendation. If unable to obtain two letters of recommendation from faculty, one letter is acceptable if the recommender can comment on the applicants' qualifications for the *Éxito!* program and the applicants' academic and research potential.

**11. When will applicants be notified of acceptance into the *Éxito!* program?**

Summer Institute participants and Internship awardees will be notified in early April 2014.

**12. If I am accepted into the *Éxito!* program will I be responsible for travel expenses to San Antonio, Texas?**

No, if you are accepted into the *Éxito!* program you will receive free registration, travel, lodging, breakfast and lunch during the 5-day Summer Institute in San Antonio, Texas.

**13. What if I cannot attend the 5-day Summer Institute in San Antonio, Texas?**

The Summer Institute is mandatory for those accepted into the *Éxito!* program. Once the participant agrees to attend the Summer Institute and submits a signed contract, travel and lodging arrangements will be made and paid for by the *Éxito!* program. The participant will be held responsible for reimbursing the *Éxito!* program all associated travel and lodging cost if they do not attend the Summer Institute.

**14. What if an emergency arises while I am attending the Summer Institute and I have to leave early?**

We understand emergencies may arise. If circumstances are scheduled in advance, such as a surgery, a birth delivery, military deployment/transfer, we highly encourage participants to apply for the following year. Otherwise, the participants will be held responsible to encumber the cost for flight change and reimbursement for their costs previously paid for by *Éxito!*

**15. If I am unable to complete the Summer Institute and I am awarded an internship, will I be allowed to complete the internship?**

No. You must complete the Summer Institute to be eligible to complete an internship.

## INTERNSHIP FAQ – FOR INTERNS

1. **How many internships will be awarded?**

The *Éxito!* program will support five internships in 2014.

2. **Are the internships competitive?**

Yes, the *Éxito!* program is looking for highly motivated master's level and/or trained professionals interested in earning gaining cancer-research experience.

3. **Who can apply for an *Éxito!* Internship?**

Anyone who applies and is accepted into the *Éxito!* program is eligible to apply for an *Éxito!* internship.

Internships will only be awarded to applicants accepted into the *Éxito!* program and attend the five-day *Éxito!* Summer Institute in San Antonio, Texas.

4. **How does one apply for an internship?**

To apply for an internship you must complete the Summer Institute application and the *Éxito!* Internship application. The internships are not mandatory for applying to the Summer Institute but we encourage all those applying to the Summer Institute to also apply for an internship.

If you are an alumni of the *Éxito!* program and would like to apply for an internship, you are only required to complete the *Éxito!* internship application.

Note: The summer institute and *Éxito!* internship application have unique web links.

Summer Institute Application: <https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/exito>

*Éxito!* Internship Application: <https://app.wizehive.com/appform/login/exitointernship>

All documents must be received by Friday, March 7, 2014.

**What are the deadlines for applying for an internship?**

The internship deadline is the same as the Summer Institute application deadline. All documents must be received via the online application by Friday, March 7, 2014.

5. **How long is the *Éxito!* Internship?**

The *Éxito!* internships are six months long; internships will take place between June 2014 and Nov. 30, 2014.

6. **How many hours must I complete for the *Éxito!* Internship?**

Interns must complete 360 hours of work between June 2014 and Nov. 30, 2014.

**7. Do I need to arrange an interview?**

No, you do not need to arrange an interview with the *Éxito!* program staff. Potential interns will have to identify a mentor at their home institution or research center and submit an Internship Work Plan via the online application. Interns will be selected based on the Internship Work Plan submitted.

**8. When will I be notified if I am accepted for an internship?**

Applicants will be notified in early April 2014. Internships will only be awarded to applicants accepted into the *Éxito!* program and who attend and complete the five-day *Éxito!* Summer Institute in San Antonio, Texas.

**9. Will I receive financial support from the *Éxito!* program during the internship appointment?**

Yes, those selected for an internship will receive a \$3,250 honorarium. Mentors will receive \$750. Honorariums will only be awarded at the conclusion of the internship and provided the intern has submitted their final report.

The intern/mentor is responsible for materials and other expenses incurred and required for internship project. Disbursements of funds are not allowed to purchase materials needed for the projected study.

**10. Will travel expenses or internship related cost be reimbursed by *Éxito!*?**

Applicants selected to participate in the *Éxito!* Summer Institute will receive travel, lodging, and two meals per day at no expense. Internship-related cost will not be reimbursed by the *Éxito!* program. The *Éxito!* program will only provide a \$3,250 honorarium at the conclusion of the internship.

**11. What if I don't complete the number of hours required or submit a final report for the internship?**

You must complete the required number of hours (360) and submit a final report by November 30, 2014. If the internship is not completed, the intern and mentor will not receive their honorarium. In the event of an emergency where the applicant cannot complete the internship, proper documentation will be requested and executive decisions made by the *Éxito!* team to determine if an extension will be granted.

**12. What will I be required to do in an internship?**

Potential interns and their mentors have the freedom to propose a work plan. We highly advise interns conduct secondary analysis of available data. If original research is proposed we recommend interns/mentors discuss the timeline needed to obtain institutional approval to conduct research.

**13. Will I need to report any information back to the *Éxito!* program?**

Yes, you will be responsible for submitting electronic monthly progress reports to the *Éxito!* program staff. You will also be responsible for completing a pre- and post-internship survey and be required to submit a final report and PowerPoint.



## INTERNSHIP FAQ – FOR MENTORS

### 1. What will my responsibilities as an *Éxito!* mentor be?

As a mentor, you will be responsible for:

- Helping your potential intern create an Internship Work Plan.
- Meeting with your potential intern at minimum, once a week to discuss internship progress.
- Providing your intern with opportunities to build upon their research and interpersonal skills.
- Evaluating your intern's performance by completing the Mentor Feedback Survey at the conclusion of the internship.

### 2. Will I receive an honorarium or stipend for serving as a mentor?

Yes, mentors will receive a \$750 honorarium at the conclusion of the internship and after submission of the intern's final report. Honorariums will only be awarded provided the intern has successfully completed their internship.

### 3. Will I be responsible for paying for work conducted by an intern?

No, mentors are not required to pay interns. Interns will receive a \$3,250 honorarium from the *Éxito!* program at the conclusion of their internship.

### 4. How long is the internship?

Interns must complete a 360-hour internship expected to begin in June 2014 and conclude Nov. 30, 2014.