



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Will I be a year behind in my graduate education if I attend PREP?**
 - a. No, PREP gives you the research experience you need for graduate school and offers coursework with credits that can transfer to your program within OUHSC. In addition, if you select a mentor in PREP, and wish to stay in that mentor's lab for your graduate career, you will not be required to rotate during GPiBS, though you can if you wish to.
- 2. What is the difference between a stipend and a salary? Are PREP participants considered students?**
 - a. A stipend is reserved for students, a salary is for employees. PREP participants will be paid a salary, not a stipend. PREP participants are then considered employees.
- 3. What kind of health benefits does PREP offer?**
 - a. PREP participants are offered health insurance.
- 4. Can I do more than three rotations?**
 - a. PREP trainees meet often with the program directors, who work with you as your education progresses. In some cases, additional rotations may be necessary.
- 5. What kind of career development activities do you provide?**
 - a. PREP provides workshops and roundtables on career development in industry, academia, teaching, and admin/policy. Additionally, PREP trainees attend our Career and Professional Development workshop series offered by our Graduate College. You can find more information about those [here](#).
- 6. Will the courses I take in PREP transfer to my graduate education?**
 - a. The Experimental Design, Animal Handling, and Ethics courses are part of GPiBS and PREP, so PREP trainees will not have to repeat those once in GPiBS.
- 7. What kind of cohort building activities do you provide?**
 - a. Cohort building is an important component of the PREP. We offer activities that encourage teamwork, collaboration, and a chance to socialize. Potential activities include escape rooms, water sports, athletic games, etc.
- 8. What is the difference between the Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (GPiBS) and PREP?**
 - a. PREP is a pathway to a graduate education. PREP gives you the research experience and resources you need to be a competitive graduate applicant. GPiBS is the entry point for PhD students at OUHSC and culminates in a doctoral degree from one of our seven affiliated programs.
- 9. What do the rotations involve?**
 - a. Rotations involve identifying a mentor whose lab you wish to join for a six-week period. The mentor will work with you to select a specific project while you are

there, and guide you through graduate-level research. When the rotation is over, you will write an abstract and complete a rotation evaluation form to submit to the PREP office.

10. What is the cost of living in Oklahoma City? What are some things to do there?

- a. The cost of living in Oklahoma City is 16% lower than the national average, which makes it quite affordable. Oklahoma City takes pride in the food, entertainment, and activities it provides. For a comprehensive list, visit okc.gov.