

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit

Very Good

Explanation to Applicant

The applicant has a strong research background and has won awards for her research presentations. The academic record is less competitive. The time as a research coordinator has been very productive and several coauthor publications are in the pipeline. The applicant has demonstrated skills in training and mentoring including designing an MRI processing course. The research statement is well developed and addresses important questions about stress during development and adverse outcomes. The applicant has the skills to carry out the project. Discussion of possible alternative outcomes would strengthen the research proposal.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts

Very Good

Explanation to Applicant

The Research plan has the potential to have both social and societal impacts by generating strategies for early interventions. The applicant demonstrates leadership in the context of the laboratory setting, extending this to outreach would strengthen the application.

Summary Comments

This is a well-written application that demonstrates strong research experience and understanding of the important questions in the field. The applicant will be an important role model for Hispanic students; especially those from an underprivileged background. Broader impacts are good but could be strengthened by demonstrating leadership in this regard.

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit

Excellent

Explanation to Applicant

Although the grade point average at Stanford is a bit lower than typically seen with applicants to the program, this apparently has little to do with the applicant's intellectual capacity and volume of work. The applicant has a number of honors, including psychology departmental honors for her thesis and is a finalist for the top poster at the 2016 Society for Biological Psychiatry meeting. The applicant has a number of publications is co-author either in preparation, submitted, in press or published. There are also a number of presentations and poster sessions. The applicant proposes a rather interesting research study involving MRI and autonomic nervous system reactivity. Although there may be difficulties in actually implementing this research, it is an interesting hypothesis and approach. The proposal would be improved with a little bit more discussion of the analyses but this is a very interesting and timely research topic. The applicant is not only worked as a research assistant and also as a research coordinator indicating a high level of confidence of her mentors and associates with her abilities. The reference letters are very supportive and indicate a very intelligent, hard-working individual.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts

Good

Explanation to Applicant

The applicant shows considerable dedication and drive to overcome apparent biases against her becoming a research scientist and professor. As an individual able to overcome these barriers, she has the ability to serve as a role model for others and assist in those others fulfilling their dreams as well. The research activities to which this individual has dedicated herself are timely and will have broad implications for mental health. At the same time, this applicant has not shown the same level of outreach activities as is commonly found in applications to the program.

Summary Comments

This applicant shows superior intellectual capacity in terms of actual research activities. While the academic record is not as outstanding as some of the other applicants, the productivity and track record of this applicant far exceeds the typical individual applying to the program at this level. In this case, the applicant has shown that she can walk the walk in terms of research activity in a very significant way. The research to which he is dedicating her activities is timely and of great interest and will in in of itself have broad impact. In addition, the individual's ability to overcome the biases arrayed against her in order to become successful and productive is significant and she could certainly serve as a role model for others facing such obstacles. On the other hand, it would have been hoped that the applicant would have engaged in additional outreach activities to reach out to those individuals in a similar situation to which she had found herself and to assist them to reach their dreams. In this, this applicant does not have a substantial track record in comparison to other applicants to the program.

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit

Excellent

Explanation to Applicant

The applicant's undergraduate academic record is very good. The applicant did research for two years as undergraduate student and has continued working in the same lab as a research coordinator. During this time, the applicant's research productivity has been excellent resulting in a couple of honors. In addition to having given several (six) poster presentations as well as a couple of oral presentations, the applicant has been an author on two scientific research publications, is an author on a paper in submission, and is an author on two manuscripts in preparation. The applicant proposes to examine infant autonomic reactivity and brain development. The applicant's research plan is well-reasoned, well-organized and based on a sound rationale and quite interesting. The applicant's letters of recommendation are outstanding and offer strong evidence of the applicant's high potential and aptitude for a career in scientific research.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts

Very Good

Explanation to Applicant

The applicant, a Hispanic or Latino female, is currently mentoring several (5) undergraduate students and has trained a number of (15) undergraduate students and research assistants. She has also designed a five-day course on MRI processing. As a graduate student, the applicant plans to continue mentoring young scientists, particularly those from underrepresented groups, low-income, or first generation college students. She also plans to work with communities to foster resilience in at-risk children.

Summary Comments

The applicant's research productivity has been exceptional. The applicant provides a well-organized in-depth research plan. The applicant has been involved in mentoring undergraduates and research assistants as well as course development, and proposes to continue these types of activities as a graduate student.