

UAB Health Services Research (HSR) Training Program 2026 Postdoctoral Trainee Application Instructions

I. OVERVIEW

The UAB Health Services Research (HSR) Training Program is a full-time mentored research training program in health services & outcomes research (Directors: *Mike Mugavero, MD, MHSc and Emily Levitan, ScD*). **Until 11:59 PM CST, January 4, 2026**, the program will be accepting applications for one postdoctoral position, based in the Heersink School of Medicine, with a start date of July 1, 2026. Appointments will last 1 year (with the potential for 1 additional year).

Funding for the July 1, 2026 cycle is provided by the Heersink School of Medicine.

Program Alignment: We seek candidates interested in conducting health services research and outcomes research and who aspire to become change agents who advance healthcare outcomes.

The training program prepares interdisciplinary investigators to pursue careers in health services and outcomes research. Skills development will include exposure to relevant epidemiological, statistical, experimental, mixed methods, and quasi- experimental methodologies, health equity research methods, and academic survivor skills such as developing an NIH-style Biosketch and elevator pitch, all with an emphasis on the practical application of health services research methodology.

Benefits of the Program:

Mentorship – Mentorship is a cornerstone of the UAB HSR Training Program, which is grounded in multidisciplinary health services research aimed at improving health care in the Deep South. Each trainee is supported by a primary mentor and the Program Directors, who work collaboratively to ensure individualized guidance and progress toward defined training and career goals. This approach provides the scientific and professional support needed for research success and preparation for independent careers in health services research.

Weekly Friday Fellows seminars series – Held on Friday mornings from August through May in a hybrid format, the Friday Fellows Seminar Series provides UAB HSR trainees with a “disease-agnostic” forum for research methods training, professional development, and Works-in-Progress (WIP) presentations. Trainees strengthen their research and communication skills while building interdisciplinary connections across UAB and the CCTS Partner Network.

Invitation-only Monthly Career Development Workshops – These 1.5-hour sessions provide UAB HSR trainees with a dedicated forum to strengthen academic and professional skills while building community among trainees. Each workshop combines concise instruction with interactive, “hands-on” activities that allow trainees to apply new concepts in real time. Topics complement the Friday Fellows Seminar Series and align with key trainee milestones—covering essential skills such as developing an Individual Development Plan (IDP), crafting abstracts and manuscripts, and preparing an aims page or biosketch.

Research Project Monitoring and Feedback – Twice annually, all UAB HSR trainees present a Works-in-Progress (WIP) session during Friday Fellows, providing an opportunity for constructive feedback from peers, Core Faculty, and Program Directors. These sessions strengthen trainees’ presentation skills and foster discussion, collaboration, and problem-solving around evolving research projects. This structured forum allows program leadership to monitor progress, address challenges, and ensure continued advancement toward each trainee’s training and research goals.

Immersive Training Experience with COERE on Boshell 8 – The UAB HSR Training Program provides an immersive, collaborative environment that promotes interdisciplinary exchange and innovation. A dedicated six-workstation office suite on Boshell 8 is reserved for trainees, encouraging daily interaction and shared learning

among peers and faculty. Faculty methodologists (biostatistics, epidemiology, implementation science, quality and safety) hold regular Office Hours in this space, creating accessible opportunities for consultation and mentorship. This co-located environment fosters spontaneous discussions and collaboration between clinical (MD) and non-clinical (PhD) trainees, enriching the overall training experience.

National Presentation and Publication Expectations – The UAB HSR Training Program expects all trainees to present their research at local (UAB) and national meetings relevant to their field. Postdoctoral trainees typically produce 2.5 peer-reviewed publications for each year of their appointment, consistent with the program's historical productivity. While not all manuscripts may be accepted within this period, trainees receive ongoing mentorship to support continued scholarly productivity and future research success.

Membership in a Successful, Vibrant, and Distinct Program Alumni Community – Graduates of the UAB HSR Training Program join an active alumni community that carries forward the collaborative spirit of their training experience. Alumni stay engaged through mentorship, invited presentations, and professional development activities, forming a supportive network across clinical and non-clinical disciplines at UAB. Many hold competitive research and leadership roles, collaborate with current trainees and faculty, and partner with one another on manuscripts and grants. Others remain involved with COERE through roles such as Associate Director and Steering Committee member. This vibrant community provides fellows with enduring relationships that continue to advance their careers as independent health services researchers.

Protected Time for Mentored Research Training (Stipend). An annual NRSA-level stipend (and the associated fringe benefits) will be provided for full-time immersive mentored research training. Postdoctoral stipend levels are updated annually. For FY25 levels, please visit <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-105.html>. Mentored research training is the backbone of this training program and fundamental to successful career development in health services research. Trainees will be expected to propose a team of at least two experienced mentors. The primary mentor must be a full-time faculty member in the Heersink School of Medicine and a Participating Faculty Mentor for this training program (see website for current list).

Support for Travel and Training-related Expenses (TRE). The training program will cover certain other training related expenses, such as minor research supplies, conference registrations, travel to conferences, etc. Use of training funds to purchase these items is subject to approval by your mentor and the program leadership. The amount available to you for each appointment year will be shared at the annual orientation. All TRE purchases and reimbursement requests are executed by your department/division/unit's administrators.

Tuition Support for Didactic Training. Postdoctoral trainees will receive tuition support for tuition and fees per appointment year for coursework that is part of a formal degree program (e.g. MSPH). For other coursework at the graduate level, funds will be provided for tuition and fees. Trainees are encouraged to enroll in courses to address specific training goals tailored to their background, experience, career objectives and interests. Clinical postdoctoral trainees without an existing Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) or comparable degree may obtain a master's degree or certificate through one of the recommended programs/tracks. Trainees with a research-intensive terminal degree or an existing MSPH or comparable degree will be encouraged to consider courses and certificate programs to supplement existing skills and learn new methodologies.

Recommended didactic training programs for postdoctoral trainees. The UAB School of Public Health offers MSPH programs in Outcomes Research and Epidemiology. These are research-focused degree programs that include methods training and conclude with a thesis project. The UAB School of Health Professions offers Master of Science in Health Informatics and Master of Science in Healthcare Quality and Safety, as well as a graduate certificate in Healthcare Quality and Safety and Mixed Methods Research, among other topics. UAB also offers several certificate programs. Programs that may be of particular interest to UAB HSR trainees include:

- Healthcare Quality and Safety
- Application of Mixed Methods Research
- Clinical Informatics
- Healthcare Leadership

- Applied Biostatistics and Epidemiology
- Social & Behavioral Statistics,
- Many options for those with MSN and APRN

Other didactic training programs may be approved in consultation with the program leadership and the mentoring team.

II. ELIGIBILITY

Postdoctoral - Eligible applicants will have earned a clinical or research doctorate, including PhD, ScD, DrPH, MD, DO, DC, ND, DDS, DMD, DNS or equivalent doctoral degree. For clinicians, the program may be coordinated with a current residency program or clinical fellowship and will allow for some minimum time allocated to clinical activities that are conducted outside the 40 hours per week required for full-time research training. No citizenship or permanent residency requirements. Applicants who do not currently have a UAB appointment are encouraged to apply. Because this position is funded by HSOM, the primary mentor of applicants must have a full-time primary appointment in HSOM.

All candidates must demonstrate a commitment to mentored research training and career development in health services research. No citizenship or permanent residency requirements.

III. IMPORTANT DATES

November 7, 2025 – Request for applications released.

January 4, 2026, 11:59 PM CST – Applications due.

Mid-January, 2026 –Selected candidates interview with members of the review committee.

February 1, 2026 – Candidates notified of application outcome.

July 1, 2026 – Appointment start date.

IV. APPLICATION PROCESS

Submission of Materials:

1. Interested applicants will complete the online survey, including **a single PDF upload containing: (A) Statement of Interest, and (B) Curriculum Vitae.** The application survey can be found on the COERE website: <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/coere/education/t32-fellowship-in-outcomes-and-effectiveness-research-and-health-services-research>

(A) **Statement of Interest.** Please include a statement of interest (2 page maximum *not* including references, in Arial 11 font, 0.5" margins) addressing the following:

- 1) What is your primary research question and how will you answer it?
- 2) How are your research project(s) distinct from your mentors' research projects?
- 3) How do your research question and the associated projects seek to improve the delivery of healthcare in the United States?
- 4) During the training program, what are your goals for paper, abstract, and grant submissions?
- 5) During the training program, what are your plans for working towards degrees or other skills development coursework? This could also be a certificate, workshops, etc.

- 6) List the mentors you propose to work with and the mentorship that each will provide to you. Your primary mentor must be from the list on the bottom of this page:

<https://www.uab.edu/medicine/coere/education/t32-fellowship-in-outcomes-and-effectiveness-research-and-health-services-research>

(B) **Curriculum Vitae.** Please provide a current CV including your current position, educational background, funding, publication record, and past/current research experience. Please ensure your GPA and any relevant test scores (i.e.: GRE Scores, V, Q, Adv, and/or MCAT or PCAT Scores) are clearly included.

2. **Letters of recommendation.** Please provide 2 letters of recommendation. One should be from your proposed primary mentor and should describe their plan for your training and development and their commitment to you as primary mentor. The other should be from faculty you have worked with directly on research or research training-related activities or who have supervised you in your graduate training. Faculty providing letters of recommendation should email them directly to Geri Davis at geridavis@uabmc.edu by 11:59 PM CST, January 4, 2026. Letters of recommendation should be addressed to:

Michael J. Mugavero, MD, MHSc
Jeanne M. Marrazzo, MD, MPH Endowed Professor in Innovation and Advancement through Mentorship
Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases
Director, UAB Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research and Education
Multi PD/PI, UAB Health Services Research (HSR) Training Program
Associate Dean, Clinical and Translational Research
UAB Heersink School of Medicine

Emily B. Levitan, ScD
Professor and Vice Chair, Department of Epidemiology
Co-Director, UAB Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research and Education
Multi PD/PI, UAB Health Services Research (HSR) Training Program
UAB School of Public Health

Interviews:

Selected applicants will be invited to interview in January 2026.

V. CONTACT

For questions about the application process or the training program, please contact Geri Davis, Program Coordinator, at geridavis@uabmc.edu.