



Pathways Initiative Cohort 2: Undergraduate Student Application

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Are you junior? Do you want to learn about the field of evaluation?

The Pathways Initiative (PI) is a program and collaborative to strengthen the diversity of the Chicago area evaluation field by increasing the recruitment, training and retention of culturally responsive and equity-focused evaluators of color in the Chicago region. We are accepting applications for our new cohort, which begins in January 2022. PI is a coordinated and resourced approach engaging local evaluators, colleges, universities and funders to support students of color to become outstanding evaluators, required to meet the emerging market demand for evaluations in our community. This is a unique opportunity to participate in the first of its kind evaluation training program in the US that focuses on undergraduate students. Our participants are prepared to enter the field of evaluation after completing the program.

Program Eligibility:

- Undergraduate students of color in their junior year.
- Students should reflect the full scope of the Chicago region's diversity including but not limited to: Black; Latine; American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian; Middle Eastern or North African; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; and multi-racial students.
- Attending one of the five Chicago partnership universities (DePaul, Loyola, Northwestern, Northeastern IL and UIC) will be selected to participate in this Initiative for 22 months.
- Commit to participate in the program for 22 months.
- No prior evaluation experience required.

Program Benefits:

- An opportunity to be trained in the field of evaluation
- Skill-building educational training in evaluation and culturally responsive and equity-focused practices
 - Independent study course with students from across the five participating universities, taught by faculty and experienced evaluators from the Chicago area
- Hands-on evaluation training in the Chicago metro area
 - Paid 10-week evaluation summer internship (after completion of junior year)
 - Paid 6-month apprenticeship post-graduation
- One-on-one mentorship - Each student will be matched with an experienced evaluation mentor who will work with them individually for the full 22-month duration of the Initiative.
- Opportunities to meet with evaluators from private, non-profit, and government organizations
- Exposure to the array of vocational opportunities that are available to evaluators
- Ongoing career support

We are building a network of evaluators in the Chicago metro area. Join us! Applicants should contact the participating faculty member from your school to schedule a time to talk further about this opportunity:

- Loyola University: David Van Zytveld, dvanzyt@luc.edu
- Northwestern University: Ebony Bradford, ebony.bradford@northwestern.edu
- UIC: Professor Decoteau Irby, irbyd@uic.edu
- Northeastern IL University: Professor Amanda Dykema-Engblade, a-dykema-engblade@neiu.edu

The application deadline is **Monday, October 10, 2022**, and the selection will be announced Friday, November 4, 2022. Learn more about Pathways at: <https://www.pathwaysinitiative.net/>.



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Pathways Initiative Application

Student Name: _____ University Name: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Please attach a 3-4 page response to the following questions:

1. How did you hear about the Pathways Initiative?
2. Why are you interested in applying to the Pathways Initiative?
3. Have you had any courses or experiences in evaluation and/or research? If so, please describe them. What in these courses/experiences did you find interesting and what parts did you not like?
4. When you think about a career, what types of work interest and excite you?
5. Thinking about your academic courses and college experience over the past 2 ½ years, what do you think are your strengths and weaknesses as a student? What kinds of situations or supports help you learn the most?
6. Have you worked as part of a team – at school, work, outside-of-school activities, or any other place? Please describe what it was like and how you participated as part of the team.
7. Tell us about yourself:
 - a. Tell us about your background and interest in racial diversity, equity and inclusion.
 - b. Please describe your experience with the Chicago region.
 - c. Please tell us your ideas for improving the Chicago region in the long-term, and the role that you hope to play towards the goals.
8. Are there any other things that you would like us to know about you?

Please attach a copy of your college transcript (a scanned or copy machine copy is fine) so that we can get an idea of the types of courses that you've taken and how you've done in them.

Please submit your application by Monday, October 10, 2022 to:

- 1. The participating faculty member from your school; and**
- 2. Lisa Aponte-Soto: admin@tanomaconsulting.com**

The twelve members of the 2023-2024 cohort will be selected within two weeks of the deadline, and all applicants will be notified of the decisions when the cohort is announced on November 4, 2022. If you have any questions, please speak with the participating faculty member from your school or you may contact Lisa Aponte-Soto at admin@tanomaconsulting.com.