



Application opens: October 10th, 2025

Application closes: October 24th, 2025 at 11:59 PM

EMBARK Awareness, or **E**arly **M**easures in **B**lack and **A**frican American Communities to **R**aise **K**idney Disease **A**wareness, a nationwide program of the GlomCon Foundation, that aims to provide education and raise awareness in Black and African-American communities about kidney disease. Through community-based outreach, we seek to empower individuals to take control of their health and prevent the progression of kidney disease with kidney health education, free kidney health screening, and Apolipoprotein L1 (APOL1) genetic testing.

The EMBARK Awareness Student Ambassador Program aims to create meaningful opportunities for Black/African American college students to grow as leaders in kidney health through providing information on APOL1-mediated kidney disease throughout the academic year.

APOL1-mediated kidney disease (AMKD) is a genetic form of kidney disease that usually affects individuals between the ages of 15-39. The disease can progress without pain or obvious symptoms and lead to kidney failure requiring dialysis or kidney transplantation. AMKD affects individuals of Black/African ancestry and contributes significantly to kidney health disparity in Blacks. The EMBARK Student Ambassador Program seeks to educate student leaders (Ambassadors) to inform their peers about AMKD and to increase awareness of the disease throughout the campus community. Student Ambassadors will receive intensive training about AMKD, learn critical peer-to-peer education strategy, serve as on-campus liaisons for the GlomCon Foundation with partnering organizations, and execute educational programming throughout the academic year.

To be eligible for the Student Ambassador Program, students must meet the following criteria:

Academic & Enrollment Requirements:

- Be currently enrolled as a sophomore or junior undergraduate at an accredited College or University.
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) and be in good academic standing.
- Be pursuing a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree with the intent to

apply to a scientific graduate or medical school program after graduation.

Relevant Interests & Experience:

- Demonstrate an interest in basic and translational sciences, medicine, pharmacy, nursing, health policy, health equity, health education, public health, sports medicine, physical therapy, kinesiology, or African American diaspora studies. Priority will be given to students with prior experience in these areas.
- Prior experience in organizational leadership and student event programming (e.g., Residential Life employees, members of D9 organizations, other Greek letter organizations, or special interest groups focused on health) will receive special consideration.
- Students with a family history of high blood pressure, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, dialysis, or kidney transplantation will also receive special consideration.

Commitment & Participation:

Be able to commit 40 hours to the project, which includes:

- Completion of the interactive Student Ambassador Curriculum training (3-4 zoom sessions throughout the academic year).
- Completion of pre- and post-education knowledge surveys at the start and completion of the year.
- Live video and photo documentation of campus wide AMKD educational events.
- Participation in at least one on-campus or local EMBARK Awareness Initiative education and screening event.
- Coordination of educational programming throughout the month of March (National Kidney Month)
- Assisting with on-campus advertising for the AMKD Awareness Day event.
- Participating in the AMKD Awareness Day on-campus educational event.
- Eligible Student Ambassadors have the opportunity to participate in the program for a second year.

Leadership and Career Development Experience:

- Certificate of completion
- Letter of recommendation
- Mentorship opportunities
- Virtual access to GlomCon Hawaii
- Public recognition on GlomCon/EMBARK websites, in the EMBARK newsletter, and on social media
- Branded jacket or lab coat