There are a couple things you can do to increase your chances of getting accepted to a lab.

1. Be clear on what interests you, with focused, but not narrow areas. Faculty want to work with students who are passionate about the work going on in the lab. If you just simple list all areas as your interests, the faculty assume someone else will pick you up. That being said don’t be TOO specific. Not all labs have space each semester, so it is good to have interests that overlap with a few different faculty to increase your chances. Basically here, just be honest. Don’t try to game the system. What areas do you like and want to learn more about? Write about that in your interests.

2. Related to 1, list a few faculty members whose work interests you. On the faculty review side, we can filter by faculty member, so we are likely to first look for the students who want to work with us. We can also see who else you are interested in working with. That is fine, you should pick a few, but if you list everyone in BBS, it will seem like your interests are focused.

3. Availability! Most lab rotations require quite a bit of training. That training cannot be done in short, 1 hour time windows. You need to have blocks of time during the week that you can commit to the lab. If a student is spectacular but can’t commit to a time slot or two when we are open and working as a lab, they are not a good fit. We are also open weekends and some evenings.