Charlotte Research Scholars
Mentor Orientation

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The Charlotte Research Scholars (CRS) is a summer program for high-achieving undergraduate students to gain experience in research and professional development in their field of interest.
“Part of the value in attending a research university as an undergraduate is being able to learn in an environment that allows you to take part in the process of discovery.”

Dr. Joan Lorden (Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs)
One-on-one mentoring by faculty is the heart and soul of the CRS program.
Scholars learn not only how to do research, but also how to effectively present their results.
Each year the CRS culminates in the Summer Research Symposium.
Acknowledgements

• **Academic Affairs**
  Especially Provost Lorden and Senior Associate Provost Raja

• **Charlotte Research Institute**
  Especially Vice Chancellor Wilhelm

• **Graduate School**
  Where the program is administratively located
Acknowledgements

• You (the student scholars) and the Mentors
  Without whom this program would not exist

• CRS Organizing Committee
  Katherine Hall-Hertel (GS), Banita Brown (CLAS), Susan Harden (COED), and Nate Fried

• CRS Graduate Assistant
  Elizabeth Ballard

• Graduate School Support Staff
Program overview

- **Summer research program**
  May 23 to July 29: Research topics span all areas of academic research, ranging from the arts to the physical sciences
  Scholars receive $4000 stipend and mentors receive $500 honorarium

- **Weekly professional development sessions**
  Held in conjunction with four other Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) programs on campus as well as Charlotte Community Scholars (CCS) & Summer Program to Increase Diversity in Undergraduate Research (SPIDUR)

- **Research Symposium on July 27**
  Scholars from REU, CCS, and SPIDUR programs will also present

- **Applicants**
  > 150 student applications and > 100 submitted faculty projects
• The CRS is open to all areas of academic research

2016 Charlotte Research Scholars by Major
The CRS is open to all areas of academic research.
Common questions

- Who is funding this program?
- Why is the graduate school delivering the program?
- How was I selected?
- What are the expectations of me?
- What do I do if there is a problem?
Who is funding the CRS program? And why is the Graduate School delivering it?

First and foremost, this is an Academic Affairs program that is being managed by the Graduate School.

While not a formal requirement, there is a hope that many of you will consider applying to graduate school. This is reflected in the program schedule.

For those that are eligible, it is hoped that you will apply for NSF Graduate Research Fellowships, or similar research fellowships for non-STEM programs.

Lastly, it is hoped that the CRS program will help seed new NSF-REU sites/grant applications (and similar programs).
How was I selected?

There was not a simple formula for making selections. Rather, the scholars were selected based on a variety of criteria, in a somewhat hierarchical manner.

Our primary goal was to evenly distribute -- in as much as possible -- the selections across all areas of academic research.

Next, we had to make a suitable match based on topic between applicant and mentor.

Finally, we considered a number of tertiary factors, including GPA, applicant goals, applicant availability (summer school?), demographic evenness, etc.
What are expectations of the scholars?

• **Scholars are expected to work “full-time” from May 23 to July 29.** While we do not require time-sheets or audit hours, scholars should average 35 hrs/wk “in the lab.”

• **Scholars must attend & participate in all professional development sessions.** Approved absences will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and must have prior approval by both the mentor and me.

• **Due dates:** Abstract (July 18); Poster (July 27); Final report (Aug 1); and CV (Aug 1)
What are expectations of me?
Other important points…

• Check email daily, read all CRS messages, and reply promptly when required.

• Report any needs or concerns regarding the project and/or mentor to Dr. Fried as soon as they develop.

• Complete the CRS program evaluation, which will be emailed to all scholars at the conclusion of the program.

• Notify CRS Director of awards they receive, professional meetings attended, and/or research papers presented at professional meetings corresponding to this work.
During the CRS Program, the Scholar will:
A. Devote such time and effort as may be reasonably required to perform his/her research.
B. Not engage in other employment without consent from the CRS Program.
C. Attend all professional development sessions, unless otherwise excused.
D. Comply with university’s rules, standards and instructions for student behavior, including, but not limited to, those set forth in The Code of Student Responsibility and The Code of Student Academic Integrity.

CRS Program shall pay the Scholar a stipend of $4,000. Disbursed in three installments (every 3 weeks). Note: Unless you are an international student, taxes will not be withheld; however, everyone is ultimately responsible to pay taxes on it.

If the Scholar is terminated early, he/she will forfeit remainder of their stipend pro-rated from date of termination.
What do I do if there is a problem?

Preferably problems related to research and other day-to-day issues will be addressed and resolved between you and your mentor. If you are uncomfortable addressing the problem with your mentor directly, please contact me ASAP and I will intervene on your behalf.

See me if you have any other type of problem. Please let me know if you have scheduling conflicts that prevents you from attending one of the program sessions (again, the expectation is that you will attend all programs).
Professional development sessions

May 25  Responsible conduct of research (Dr. Rasmussen)
June 1  Professional writing (Drs. Wickliff and Minslow)
June 8  NSF Graduate Research Fellowships (Drs. Rabinovich and Walker)
June 15 3-Minute Thesis (Dr. Fried)
June 22 Thinking about graduate school (Dr. Hall-Hertel)
June 29 Research fellowship opportunities (Ms. Brown)
July 13 Research Posters (Dr. Mays)
July 20 Academic resumes (Dr. Boyd)
July 25* 3MT® practice session (Dr. Fried)
July 27 Research Symposium @ Student Union

* Note: not a Wednesday
Required social events

- Friday, June 24: Cookout
- Friday, July 22: Ice cream social and scavenger hunt
- Wednesday, July 27: Summer Research Symposium
3-Minute Thesis

From the University of Queensland website: Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) is a research communication competition developed by The University of Queensland which challenges research higher degree students to present a compelling oration on their thesis and its significance in just three minutes in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

We use the 3MT® format as part of the Summer Research Symposium poster judging. Presenters will get three minutes to summarize their research to the judges, and then an additional five minutes for technical Q&A.
Content on CRS website (http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/CRS)

Professional development session slides (will be updated as developed)

The CRS program information:
-- Calendar, participant list, and these slides

Guidelines for deliverables:
-- Abstract, poster, CV, and final report

Additional useful info:
-- Information about graduate school and research posters
Charlotte Research Scholars summer program

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