Charlotte Research Scholars
Mentor Orientation

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Charlotte Research Scholars summer program
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 mentors)**
  Without whom this program would not exist

• **CRS Organizing Committee**
  Susan Sell (Senior Associate Dean, GRAD), Banita Brown (Associate Dean, CLAS), Nate Fried (Associate Professor, Physics) and myself

• **Admissions Committee**
  Susan Sell (Senior Associate Dean, GRAD), Banita Brown (Associate Dean, CLAS), Nate Fried (Associate Professor, Physics), Peter Thorsheim (Associate Prof, History), Lesley Brown (RED) and myself

• **Graduate School Support Staff**
  Tatyana Miller, Julie Green, Linda-Jean Jay and Karla Stanchina
Program overview

• **Summer research program**
  May 27 to July 25: Research topics span all areas of academic research, ranging from arts to the physical sciences

  The scholars will receive a $4000 stipend for their participation, and mentors will receive a $500 honorarium

• **Weekly professional development sessions**
  Held in conjunction with four other REU programs on campus

• **Research Symposium on July 23**
  Scholars and researchers from the other REU programs will also present

• **Applicants**
  Over 150 student applications and over 130 submitted faculty projects
The CRS is open to all areas of academic research

- Theatre
- Spanish
- Sociology
- Social Work
- Public Health
- Psychology
- Political Science
- Physics
- Philosophy
- Meteorology
- Mathematics
- Latin American Studies
- International Business
- History
- German
- Geology
- Geography
- Exercise Science
- Engineering
- Elementary Education
- Electrical Engineering
- Economics
- Earth Sciences
- Dance
- Criminal Justice
- Computer Science
- Computer Engineering
- Communication Studies
- Civil Engineering
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Anthropology
- Africana Studies
- Accounting

Graph showing the number of applicants and selected in each field.
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 60 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 the expectations of me?
A complete list of scholar and mentor expectations has been provided in the expectations document.

• **Scholars are expected to work “full-time” from May 27 to July 25.** While we do not require time-sheets or audit hours, scholars should average at least 35 hrs/wk “in the lab.”

• **Scholars must attend and 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 14); Poster (July 23); Final report (July 28); and CV (July 28)
What are the 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. Livesay as soon as they develop.

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

• Notify the CRS Director of any awards you receive, professional meetings you attend, and/or research papers you present at professional meetings that correspond 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 the 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.

The 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, you are responsible for paying taxes on it.

If the Scholar is terminated early, he/she will forfeit the remainder of their stipend prorated from the date of termination.
Common questions

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

June 2  Responsible conduct of research (Dr. Rasmussen)
June 11 Research posters (Dr. Mays) and 3-Minute Thesis (Dr. Livesay)
June 18 Thinking about graduate school (Dr. Sell)
June 25 Professional writing (Drs. Wickliff and Minslow)
July 2   Research fellowship opportunities (Ms. Brown)
July 8*  NSF Graduate Research Fellowships (Dr. Rabinovich) – STEM only
July 16  Academic resumes (Dr. Boyd)
July 21* 3MT® practice session
July 23  Research Symposium @ Student Union

* Note: not a Wednesday
Required social events

May 27  Orientation and mixer (mixer will begin right after this)
June 27  Cookout
July 9   Ice cream social and scavenger hunt
July 23  Summer Research Symposium
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.

This year, we are going to 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 the 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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