Summer Research Experience Program
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the time commitment to be a mentor?
The majority of your time commitment will be during the month of July. Prior to your mentoring experience we offer a Mentor Training that will occur in late May or early June. In addition, we will ask that you fill out a Risk Assessment for your particular project. As a part of this Risk Assessment you will need to obtain signatures of your PI and your department administrator.

I haven’t told my PI that I’ll be mentoring, is that OK?
No, you must get your PIs approval to participate in this program. They will be required to sign a Risk Assessment and it’s much better if they are informed in advance that you are participating, so as not to surprise them.

Do I really have to fill out the Risk Assessment before the students get here?
Yes, we are required to have this filled out and signed by your PI, Department Head and Department Administrator before students arrive on campus.

If I’m going to a conference in July, can I still be a mentor?
Yes, however, you will need to find someone else in your lab who is able to oversee your students for the period of time you are gone. Also, let your mentee know as soon as possible that you will be gone and what the plan is for your absence.

Do the students need to complete a full research project from hypothesis to results?
No, students in this program are expected to have a true ‘research experience’. The idea is for them to see the real nitty gritty of what goes into the process of scientific research. What this looks like varies between different labs depending on safety and timing.

If our lab decides to split the two students between two mentors in the lab, can we get $800 per mentor?
No, each pair of students will warrant one stipend. Each mentor will be assigned two students. If your lab decides to split those two students between two mentors, the stipend will also be split between the mentors.

How will I receive the $800 stipend?
The preferred method of payment is directly to the SpeedType of your choice. Please make sure that this SpeedType is allowed to receive funds. Some labs have used this money to go to a conference or buy a new piece of equipment. Alternatively, if this is not possible we can work out another form of payment.