Faculty Mentor Program

Program Coordinator: Bev Fruto
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What is the Faculty Mentor Program?

- Undergraduates conduct research with a UCSD faculty mentor
- Earn 99 or 199 independent study credit
- Designed to build research skills
- Assistance every step of the way
  - finding and establishing a connection with a mentor
  - learning research & writing skills, exploring post-graduate career paths through workshops and seminars.
Eligibility

- Open to all majors!
- Transfer, international, and undocumented students are encouraged to apply.
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.7
- UC San Diego student while participating in the FMP (Part-time OK)
- Have sophomore standing or above (45+ units)
- Commit at least 2 consecutive quarters to the program (winter + spring).
- Have a UCSD Faculty Mentor to oversee your project
How to find a mentor?

• Reach out to professors with whom you have taken/are taking courses.
• Contact graduate TA's
• Course catalog and department websites > Professors' individual websites
• Research Experience & Applied Learning (REAL) Portal: real.ucsd.edu
• Once you have identified a possible mentor, reach out via email. Keep it professional.
• Find tips at urh.ucsd.edu > Students > How to Find a Mentor
• Contact Bev Fruto, FMP Coordinator, at brfruto@ucsd.edu if you need help finding a mentor.
How do I pick a topic?

• What excites you most?
• What makes you angry? What would you like to change?
• What would you like to create?
• What do you like to spend your time doing?
• Topics from classes
• Major trends in academia, politics, industry, or in media?
Past research topics by undergrads at UC San Diego

- Blockchain Technology in Nursing Informatics
- Madness and Mothering in Gothic Fiction
- Impact of Public Umbilical Cord Blood Banks' Lack of Donor Diversity
- Constitutionality of Critical Race Studies in K-12 Education
- Cell Based Gene Editing Platform for Stem Cell Biology
- Imprints of Massive Neutrinos in the Phase of the Cosmic Microwave Background
Program benefits

- Build a valuable **professional relationship with a UC San Diego faculty mentor.**
- **Get 99/199 credit** for 2 quarters or 3 consecutive quarters.
  - 99: If fewer than or 90 units
  - 199: If greater than 90 units
  - Most departments, Friday of Week 2
  - BILD 99/BISP 199 - **Friday, December 2, 2022, 4pm > 199 exemption form**
- Get research experience > proposal, data analysis, research paper
- Present your research at the **FMP Research Symposium** in the Spring.
- Conference travel funding
REQUIREMENTS WHILE IN THE PROGRAM

- Attend **required seminars and workshops**.
- Perform 10 hours of research activities each week.
- Enroll in a **199 independent study course**.
- Meet with your faculty mentor once per week (at least 1 hour).
- Present at the **FMP Symposium during Spring Quarter**.
- Turn in a **research proposal** at the end of winter quarter and a **final paper** at the end of your spring quarter.
ACTIVITIES EACH QUARTER

WINTER

• Orientation - week 3
• Library Research Seminar - week 4 or 5
• How to Write a Research Proposal Seminar – week 5
• Research Proposal Peer Review Workshop – week 8
• Research proposal final draft due March 26, 2023

SPRING

• Graduate Student Panel (tentative)
• Workshop: How to Create Your Poster and Present at FMP Symposium
• FMP Symposium (May)
• Final Paper due June 17, 2023
APPLICATION PROCESS

- Fmp.ucsd.edu > How to Apply
- Sign in with UCSD SSO credentials
- Mentor must complete a statement of support.
Mentor Statement of Support

1. FMP Mentor Statement of Support

Statement I
I endorse this student’s application to the Faculty Mentor Program and agree to mentor this student and oversee their research.

Statement II
I agree to provide resources, training, and feedback as appropriate.

Statement III
I will ensure that the student completes all required training and certifications prior to starting any research, if necessary.

Statement IV
I know that my student researcher(s) is required to work at least 10 hours a week on research activities which I will assign. I will provide at least one hour a week of direct individual supervision, or assign someone to assist the student in my stead.

Statement V
I understand that my student researcher(s) is required to write a research proposal and paper. I agree to provide feedback on both.

Statement VI
I agree to sponsor my student researcher(s) in a 4-unit 99/199 Independent Study during all quarters of participation (unless discussed otherwise with the student and FMP coordinator).

Statement VII
I will provide a reading list of literature in my field and training in research techniques as appropriate for the project, and be available to answer my student’s questions as necessary.

Statement VIII
I understand that my student researcher(s) will present their research at the Faculty Mentor Program Research Symposium at the end of Spring Quarter.
Reminders

Application deadline: January 16, 2023

Next FMP cycle: Fall 2023
Questions?

- **Email**: BRFruto@ucsd.edu
- **Visit**: fmp.ucsd.edu
- **Meeting**: Schedule a meeting: calendly.com/brfruto-ucsd