

Future Mentors Program

Research Mentorship Training for Graduate Students

Purpose of the Program

Effective mentorship requires specific skillsets and approaches. By applying proven strategies, mentors and mentees can create mutually enriching experiences. The **Future Mentors Program** equips the next generation of research mentors with evidence-based, culturally responsive training. Designed for graduate students mentoring undergraduates in STEM research, this program is especially valuable for doctoral students aspiring to academic careers or leadership roles in industry.

Program Overview

Participants will enroll in a 3-credit graduate-level course (HONR 59901) in the fall semester for mentor training and practicum experience. Mentors who complete the training course will be eligible for the program's Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award and to apply for a \$500 travel award.

I. Mentor Training:

This interactive seminar provides a systematic approach to analyzing and discussing research mentorship using an evidence-based curriculum developed by the Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research ([CIMER](#)). Each week mentors will engage in group activities and discuss case studies centered around key topics of mentor development:

1. Maintaining effective communication
2. Aligning mentor and mentee expectations
3. Assessing mentees' understanding and needs
4. Cultivating research ethics
5. Fostering confidence & researcher independence
6. Creating an inclusive research environment
7. Building intercultural awareness
8. Promoting professional development
9. Crafting a statement of mentoring philosophy and plan

The seminar will also serve as a forum for participants to reflect on their mentoring relationship, discuss mentoring dilemmas, and develop strategies to address difficult situations with the help of their peers.

II. Mentorship Practicum:

Mentors will have the opportunity to explore different mentoring strategies and refine their personal approach by actively engaging with mentees throughout the fall semester. Each mentor will be paired with up to two undergraduate JMHC students—either from their own department/college or another, based on preference—who are seeking to fulfill the college's curricular research requirement through [The Scholarly Project](#). Mentors are expected to dedicate 1 hour per week to face-to-face mentoring, which includes research skill development and professional development activities. Mentees will enroll in independent research (2 to 3 credits) during the fall semester and are expected to continue working on their project with their mentor in the spring semester, contingent on approval from the faculty principal investigator (PI).

Eligibility

Open to Purdue University doctoral graduate students with the approval of their PI/dissertation chair.

Procedures for Nominations

Graduate students are invited to submit self-nominations. Nominees are responsible for obtaining their PI/advisor's approval to enroll in HONR 59901 in the fall. The Qualtrics intake form has separate fields to briefly describe the following:

1. Utility of the program in relation to the graduate student's career goals
2. Mentee's research project, including the mentee's roles and responsibilities on the project
3. Number of mentees* desired (1 or 2) and their preferred academic majors
4. Required pre-requisite skills (if any)
5. Minimum number of hours per week mentees will be expected to spend on research-related activities

*Graduate students who are currently mentoring an Honors College student may waive a new matching.

Application

Apply using the link or QR code below. Nominations are currently being accepted and will continue on a rolling basis. Mentee matching will begin on February 12.

Link: https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eyzGcxbtN9TNkrk

Questions

Visit the [FAQ page](#) or email Dr. Zahra Tehrani (ztehrani@purdue.edu), Director, John Martinson Honors College.