

Millersville University
President's Commission on Cultural Diversity and Inclusion (PCCDI)
Research Mentoring Fellowship (RMF)

Application Deadline: December 20, 2021
Announcement of Award: January 14, 2022
Proposal Duration: FY 2022-FY 2023

The President's Commission on Cultural Diversity & Inclusion (PCCDI) in conjunction with the Office of the President is sponsoring a summer Research Mentoring Fellowship (RMF) for underrepresented racial or ethnic or first generation undergraduate students. This collaborative fellowship provides research mentoring workshops that prepare research mentors to support underrepresented racial or ethnic or first generation undergraduate students as they complete a five-week summer research project. Simultaneously, students involved in this fellowship engage in self-advocacy as mentees and professional development as student researchers.

Purpose

The purpose of RMF is to address recommendations from the A-Team's report on closing the graduation gap for underrepresented racial or ethnic or first generation students. The specific recommendations addressed through the RMF include: generate substantial resources for African American and Latina/o student need based on scholarships and research opportunities and develop a core group of faculty, staff, and administration of color and people who are committed to African American and Latina/o students.

Rationale

Independent research projects are recognized as a high impact practice that supports student retention and graduation. According to the Millersville University's 2019 National Survey of Student Engagement results, 17% of African American seniors, 21% of Hispanic/Latino seniors, and 22% of White seniors reported working with a faculty member on research.

Training

RMF participants will engage in ongoing mentoring and research meetings to receive support as mentees develop the IRB proposal and prepare for oral defense of research proposal to the PCCDI Sub-Committee. Research mentors will learn how to prepare and support underrepresented racial or ethnic or first generation undergraduate students as they complete a five-week summer research project. Simultaneously, student researchers will be taught how to engage in self-advocacy as mentees and learning activities concentrated on the basics of research along with building relationships.

Research Mentor

Eligibility

For the purposes of the RMF, faculty, staff, and administrators may serve as research mentors. Research mentors wanting to serve in this capacity, must commit to the following:

- Attend orientation meeting

- Meet with the prospective student researcher(s) to complete and finalize the research proposal prior to the application deadline.
- Hold face to face meetings with mentees during the spring to:
 - complete CITI training depending upon methodology
 - provide copies of CITI report by February 10, 2022
 - assist with preparing and presenting a research proposal
 - submitting IRB application on behalf of student
 - submitting one (1) Independent Study form for three (3) credits for summer III
 - assist student researcher with conference registration
 - applying for institutional funding and grants if needed
- Hold face to face meetings with mentees during the summer to:
 - complete data collection
 - complete data analysis
 - assist with write up
 - assist with preparing and presenting research
- Must provide evidence of experience of empirical research in your discipline or publication or conference presentation with student.
- Research mentors may mentor no more than one student/cycle.

Responsibilities

- Attend the final research presentations in summer III semester.
- Must provide proof of CITI training in Human Subjects Research, if accepted
- Must complete the Millersville University Institutional Review Board (IRB) protocol with the student mentee.
- Meet with the student researcher between September and December to finalize the application.
- Submit application on behalf of student by deadline.
- If application is accepted, initiate an individualized study instruction form upon receipt of award letter for 3 credits in summer III
- Complete experience surveys.
- Ensure that the student researcher(s) present at *Made in Millersville* in the spring. For more information on Made in Millersville please see blogs.millersville.edu/madeinMU/. Students will present their research at a regional/national/international conference.
- Meet with mentee face to face to support and assist with research proposal and process.

Compensation:

- Three credit paid independent study in summer III
- \$2000 Professional Development Grant

Benefits

Benefits to participating in the RMF include the opportunity to:

- Be involved in student/faculty collaborative research, develop research skills set, and contribute to the student's academic success and professional development.
- Develop a pool of student researchers with similar research interest.
- Develop and refine mentoring skills, as it relates to building relationships.

Student Researcher

Eligibility

The students will be selected based on college (five from each college) and feasibility of application. If there are not enough applicants from each college, it is at the subcommittee's discretion to divide and accept additional students from a particular college. The total capacity for this research mentoring fellowship is 7 students per academic year. Students interested in applying to the RMF must:

- Be an underrepresented racial or ethnic or first generation undergraduate student
- Have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) between 2.0-3.0 at the time of the application.
- Have completed between 20 and 75 credit hours at the time of application.
- Identified or be matched with a research mentor who is a faculty, staff, or administrator at Millersville University.
- Be available during summer III semester.
- Applicants who have not previously received a RMF award will have priority.
- Commit to a minimum of 30 hours per week during Summer session III documented through a timesheet.

Responsibilities

- Meet with the research mentor between September and December to complete the application with mentor and submit to cdi.commission@millersville.edu by the deadline.
- If accepted, sign a RMF agreement upon receipt of award letter.
- Participate in weekly Getting Inspired sessions during summer.
- Be available for face-to-face meetings with research mentor during Spring to:
 - complete CITI training depending on methodology to ensure ethical practices and
 - submit CITI certificates to cdi.commission@millersville.edu by the end of winter break.
 - Apply for research grants to fund expenses associated with research.
 - Apply for travel grants (e.g. Noonan Endowment Fund, Student Senate, PCCDI) to fund expenses associated travel and conference presentations. For further student research opportunities, go to the Millersville University Sponsored Programs & Research Administration website.
 - Complete the research project by engaging and collaborating with research mentor and defend research proposal by February 22, 2019.
 - Complete payroll, stipend forms
 - Obtain clearances
- Be available for face to face meeting with research mentor during the summer to:
 - complete data collection
 - complete data analysis
 - complete write up
 - prepare and present research
- Complete the experience surveys.
- Present the research project at the following venues:
 - Participants at the end of the five-week Summer III semester.

- Members of the President’s Commission on Cultural Diversity and Inclusion (PCCDI) during the fall or spring semester, if applicable.
- Made in Millersville during spring semester
- A regional/national/international discipline specific conference, which may occur outside of the dates of the project.

Compensation

- Free room and board on campus during Summer III the five-week research experience
- A \$1,500 stipend to be paid after summer III.

Benefits

- Three credits of independent study research experience.
- Establishing and maintaining mentoring relationship during their academic career and beyond.
- Developing professional skill sets including: building relationships, conducting ethical research and professional presentations, and networking.

Additional Information

Application

The application consists of:

- Student and faculty contact information
- Project Title
- Narrative (500 to 750 words)
 - purpose,
 - brief literature review,
 - methodology,
 - data analysis
 - timeline
 - outcomes
- Estimated Budget
- Announcements relevant to recruitment of subjects, copy of measurements, and consent form

Evaluation of Research Proposal Applications

Research proposal applications will be reviewed and evaluated by members of the RMI subcommittee comprised of members of the President’s Commission on Cultural Diversity & Inclusion (PCCDI) and campus constituents. RMI subcommittee members will utilize a RMI Proposal evaluation rubric that includes a successful proposal defense.