

Faculty Mentors in the Diamond Research Scholars Program

PROGRAM: The Diamond Research Scholars Program provides outstanding Temple undergraduates with a mentored research or creative experience enabling them to gain a deeper understanding of their field of study. The expected outcome of the program is that the scholar will have completed a substantial, original research or creative project that will enhance the scholar's candidacy for admission into graduate or professional school, for prestigious national scholarships and fellowships, or for positions in their chosen career. As such, the program is designed for those students who have a long-term interest in and commitment to the creation of original knowledge.

EXPECTATIONS: Recognizing the diversity of disciplines across the university, the specific design of each project and participation of the mentor in it will vary. However, the program expects that all faculty mentors will set high expectations for the quality of work produced by the scholar and help to structure the experience to guide the scholar through the process. This includes working with the scholar to establish in advance an appropriate schedule for project completion, including a series of smaller deadlines to provide feedback on progress and regular, scheduled communication.

TIMELINE: The seven-month long program runs from mid-May until mid-December. The scholar works on the project full-time during the summer months and brings it to completion during the fall semester while registered with the mentor for a 1- to 3-credit, graded independent study/research course. To the extent that mentors are available, they participate in one session of the Research Institute in May, two informal program progress meetings and one works-in-progress poster session during the summer, and a culminating program event in December.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The most useful letters of recommendation supporting a student applicant are those that specifically address the following: the value of the proposed project, how you and the student will work together over the summer, what you anticipate will be the outcome of the work, the extent to which the student is ready to undertake the project, and how you as a mentor would be a good match for the student and the proposed project.