



FHC Research Peer Mentoring (RPM) Program

Brett H. Say, PhD - Director of Honors Research: bhs28@pitt.edu

Christina Prado - FHC Assistant to the Director of Research: cmp188@pitt.edu

Program Description and Learning Objectives

This program implements a unique mentoring model to help incoming Frederick Honors College (FHC) students navigate undergraduate research opportunities, develop their own research ideas, and become part of the larger FHC research community. The RPM program provides FHC first-year mentees the opportunity to connect with more senior FHC students with previous undergraduate research experience. Mentees will earn Honors OCC credits through participation in the program.

By the end of the fall semester, first-year students will be able to identify a research area of interest and have a plan of action to pursue their research goals. Students will also learn how to pursue various FHC research fellowships and resources.

It is expected that, by the end of the semester, mentees will be able to:

- *Understand what research looks like in their area of interest.*
- *Identify and understand research resources available through the FHC and larger Pitt community that will advance their academic experience.*
- *Identify potential faculty/research mentors at Pitt.*

Honors OCC Experience Set

By participating in this program, first-year FHC students will earn 180 [Honors OCC](#) points by completing the **Research Peer Mentoring (RPM) - Frederick Honors** experience set in the Suitable app. Mentees earn points by completing OCC events and tasks related to the “Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work” competency in the Honors OCC. Events and tasks include the following:

Weekly Meetings:

It is expected that mentors and mentees meet each week. You are allowed one absence (1 per mentee, 1 per mentor = 2 total). For extenuating circumstances, contact Brett Say (bhs28@pitt.edu) or Christina Prado (cmp188@pitt.edu).

Additional, unexcused absences will result in being unable to receive full OCC credit.

- **Mentors:** 1 meeting each week per mentee, 50 minutes
- **Mentees:** 1 meeting with mentor per week

You must have individual meetings with your mentor. Meetings should not be combined.

We expect that mentors and mentees accommodate each other. If someone must reschedule to a different time in a particular week, it is expected that it be done whenever possible. Meetings should be conducted in person, if possible. Hold each other accountable.

Program Assessments:

There will be three program assessment surveys during the program – a Pre-program Assessment, Mid-Program Assessment, and Post-Program Assessment. Surveys will be different for mentors and mentees and should be taken separately.

Expected Outcomes:

The expected outcome is a brief assignment on what will be achieved by mentees and mentors by the final week of the program. The expected outcomes statement should be a minimum of 500 words outlining the following:

- 1) What the research outcome is and how it will be achieved.
- 2) How the outcome contributes to the mentors and mentees, professional development and/or undergraduate goals.
- 3) What work has been done so far to achieve this outcome.
- 4) How will weekly meetings and work contribute to the outcome (i.e., what will your schedule look like in the following weeks).

The outcome can be anything from an actual research proposal, application to an FHC Fellowship, BPhil Plan/Prospectus, placement on a faculty research project, participation in the spring research fair, or a unique research goal.

Final Outcome:

Completion of a research-related outcome is crucial to the program. There are many interpretations and options that should match individual student goals. The only set requirement is that your outcome must be research related and it must reflect the work that was done over the semester.

Program Schedule

Week	Activity
Week 1 9/4-9/10	9/4: Labor Day, No Classes 9/6 Introductions. Meet your mentors.
Week 2 9/11-9/17	First official week of meeting with your Mentor Discuss overall semester goals. CONTENT Due 9/17 @ 11:59pm: Meeting Notes #1
Week 3 9/18-9/24	Second week of meeting Discuss research content within field CONTENT Due 9/24 @ 11:59pm: Meeting Notes #2
Week 4 9/25-10/1	Third week of meeting Discuss research methods and expected outcomes. METHODS Due 10/1 @ 11:59pm: Meeting Notes #3
Week 5 10/2-10/8	Fourth week of meeting Discuss methods & expected outcomes, begin draft of expected outcomes. METHODS Due 10/8 @ 11:59pm: Meeting Notes #4
Week 6 10/9-10/15	10/13: Fall Break, No Classes <i>If your meeting time with mentors/mentees is usually Monday, you are expected to find another day during this week to meet.</i> SEQUENCING Fifth week of meeting Continue draft of expected outcomes. Discuss proposal and research writing within field. Due 10/15 @ 11:59pm: Meeting Notes #5
Week 7 10/16-10/22	Sixth week of meeting Complete draft of expected outcomes SEQUENCING Mentors: Due 10/22 @ 11:59pm: Expected Outcomes SEQUENCING Mentees: Due 10/22 @ 11:59: Expected Outcomes

Week	Activity
Week 8 10/23-10/29	Seventh week of meeting Work on final outcomes SOCIOLOGY Mentors: Due 10/29 @ 11:59pm: Mid-program assessment Mentees: Due 10/29 @ 11:59: Mid-program assessment
Week 9 10/30-11/5	Eighth week of meeting SOCIOLOGY Work on final outcomes Due 11/5 @ 11:59pm: Meeting Notes #6
Week 10 11/6-11/12	Ninth week of meeting Work on final outcomes Due 11/12 @ 11:59pm: Meeting Notes #7
Week 11 11/13-11/19	Tenth week of meeting Work on Final Outcomes Due 11/19 @ 11:59pm: Meeting Notes #8
Week 12 11/20-11/26	Thanksgiving Break, No Classes
Week 13 11/27-12/3	Work on Final Outcomes Mentors: Due 12/3 @ 11:59: Mentor assessment of Mentee progress Due 12/3 @ 11:59pm: Post Program Assessment Mentees: Due 12/3 @ 11:59pm: Program Outcome Due 12/3 @ 11:59pm: Post Program Assessment
Week 14 12/4-12/10	Post Program Luncheon 11am-1pm WPU
Week 15 12/11-12/16	You're busy, go study for finals. Good luck. Happy Holidays ☺