Summer Research Application Comprehension and Outcomes

Were students able to articulate and perform the necessary steps to select, apply, and secure a summer undergraduate research experience?

Learning Outcome

- Students who participate in TRiO Pathways should be able to demonstrate knowledge regarding the fundamentals of academic research and how it relates to graduate education.

Methodology

- 14 out of 19 student scholars in the junior cohort who were required to apply to 2019 summer research opportunities (SROPs) were selected to participate in this assessment.
- Data were collected using internally-created question prompts integrated into existing Qualtrics surveys distributed at the end of Winter 2019.
- Internally-created rubrics were used to measure student learning for each question prompt on the survey.
- Additional data were collected during Spring 2019 related to how many students applied to and were accepted in an SROP.

Key Findings

- 9 out of 13 scholars (69%) successfully demonstrated their ability to articulate the necessary steps to select a summer undergraduate research experience from the survey prompts.
- 12 out of 13 scholars (92%) successfully demonstrated their ability to articulate the necessary steps to apply to a summer undergraduate research experience from the survey prompts.
- 12 out of 14 scholars (86%) successfully demonstrated their ability to perform the necessary steps to select, apply to, and secure a summer undergraduate research experience.

Plan of Action

- Incorporate one-on-one meetings with the Research Coordinator at the end of fall quarter to review SROP options and reinforce seminar comprehension of selecting an SROP.
- Reinforce seminar comprehension of requirements of an SROP application during autumn quarter one-on-one meetings.
- Restructure the programming timeline to allow for earlier introduction of seminar material on SROPs, review of application materials and allow extra time to integrate the above recommendations.

Demographics

- Student scholars are eligible for the McNair program because they are classified as either low-income and first generation or members of underrepresented groups defined by the U.S. Department of Education as American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino or Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.
- Of the 14 scholars identified to participate in this project, 13 students (93%) provided data through the survey component of the assessment.

"Even though it would be nice to find something that is in your area of research interest, it is not always the case. I found that the most important part is that you are getting into a program that will help you develop skills and expand your academic network."