

SECTION 3 – Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements by circling one number for each.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	2.5	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
22. I received enough assistance throughout my participation in the REU.	1	2 (2)	2.5	3 (6)	4 (7)	3.33
23. Administration of program logistics (housing, stipend, etc.) went smoothly for me.	1	2 (1)	2.5	3 (7)	4 (7)	3.4
24. REU staff was available when I needed them.	1	2	2.5	3 (8)	4 (7)	3.46
25. I received enough guidance while completing my research project.	1	2 (2)	2.5	3 (6)	4 (7)	3.33
26. It was clear to me how my work contributed to the overall research project(s) in which I participated.	1	2	2.5	3 (6)	4 (9)	3.6
27. People generally had enough time to answer my questions.	1	2	2.5	3 (8)	4 (7)	3.46
28. I have been working closely with my REU mentor.	1	2 (4)	2.5	3 (6)	4 (5)	3.73
29. I feel that my mentor helped me understand scientific research processes.	1	2 (3)	2.5	3 (4)	4 (8)	3.33
30. I enjoyed working with my research group.	1	2 (1)	2.5	3 (7)	4 (7)	3.4
31. I enjoyed my day-to-day work.	1	2 (3)	2.5	3 (7)	4 (5)	3.13
32. The REU program was fairly balanced between instruction, lab time, and social opportunities	1	2 (2)	2.5	3 (6)	4 (7)	3.33
33. I learned how to be a collaborative research team member.	1	2 (2)	2.5	3 (8)	4 (5)	3.2
34. I felt connected to other REU students in the program.	1 (1)	2 (1)	2.5	3 (4)	4 (9)	3.4
35. I plan to stay in touch with other REU students.	1 (1)	2 (1)	2.5	3 (5)	4 (8)	3.33
36. I plan to stay in touch with REU staff.	1	2 (3)	2.5	3 (5)	4 (7)	3.26
37. I plan to stay in touch with my REU mentor.	1 (1)	2 (2)	2.5 (1)	3 (5)	4 (6)	3.1

SECTION 4 – Please circle a number to rate the contribution of the REU to your skills in each of the following areas:

	No Contribution	Some Contribution	Large Contribution	Mean
38. Critical Thinking Skills	1 (1)	2 (9)	3 (5)	2.26
39. Independent Work Skills	1 (1)	2 (6)	3 (8)	2.46
40. Small Group Work Skills	1 (1)	2 (10)	3 (4)	2.2
41. Research Skills	1	2 (5)	3 (10)	2.66
42. Presentation Skills	1	2 (6)	3 (9)	2.6
43. Writing Skills	1 (1)	2 (14)	3	1.93
44. Persistence in Task Completion	1 (2)	2 (9)	3 (4)	2.13
45. Problem Solving Skills	1 (1)	2 (6)	3 (8)	2.46

SECTION 5 – Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements by circling one number for each.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	2.5	Agree	Strongly Agree	5	Mean
46. Participation in the REU has contributed to my self-confidence	1	2 (1)	2.5	3 (10)	4 (4)	5	3.2
47. My involvement in the REU has influenced my educational goals	1	2 (1)	2.5	3 (8)	4 (6)	5	3.26
48. In the future, I want to take at least one course in which I can learn more about research methods.	1	2 (4)	2.5 (1)	3 (6)	4 (4)	5	2.96
49. As a result of participating in the REU, I am now considering majoring in this field.	1 (2)	2 (3)	2.5	3 (7)	4 (3)	5	2.73
50. As a result of participating in the REU, I am now considering post-graduate education.	1	2 (2)	2.5	3 (4)	4 (9)	5	3.46
51. My involvement in the REU has influenced my career goals.	1	2 (1)	2.5	3 (9)	4 (5)	5	3.26

52. Participation in the REU has increased my interest in doing scientific research.	1	2 (1)	2.5	3 (8)	4 (6)	5	3.33
53. Participation in the REU has contributed to my motivation to work in a scientific field.	1	2 (1)	2.5	3 (9)	4 (5)	5	3.26
54. At the REU, I made important connections with people who share my research interests.	1	2 (2)	2.5	3 (7)	4 (6)	5	3.26
55. At the REU, I made important connections with people who share my career interests.	1	2 (3)	2.5	3 (7)	4 (5)	5	3.13
56. Participation in the REU has contributed to personal growth.	1	2 (1)	2.5	3 (7)	4 (7)	5	3.4
57. I would recommend the REU as a valuable experience to other students.	1	2 (1)	2.5	3 (5)	4 (8)	5 (1)	3.6

SECTION 6 – Please respond to the following questions.

58. What was the most memorable part of the REU? Why?

- **The symposium – collection and organization of all skills/research so far....**
- **The research part is the most memorable, because it brought up my interest in doing research.**
- **Poster presentation/working with advisor**
- **The people I met here**
- **Meeting new people**
- **Making the great new friends that I did and gaining research experience**
- **Working closely with a specific research group**
- **The symposium was most memorable because we got to show our accomplishments and pride in our work and see the other interns**
- **Know new experiences**
- **The day of the conferences because all of us showed the results of our projects**
- **The experience I gained being in/working in the lab**
- **It would definitely have to be meeting the other students in the REU as well as the graduate students at UAkron**
- **My work with Dr. Cavicchi, who is a great advisor, by the way**
- **Working with my mentor**

59. What was the most difficult aspect of the REU for you?

- **Paper write-ups**
- **None**
- **Getting the background knowledge before doing the research**
- **The project. I felt I got little time in the lab for a synthesis aspect.**
- **Staying organized**
- **Leaving!**
- **Understanding the material**
- **Getting started with no previous knowledge of polymers and understanding the material presented**
- **Language**
- **Work with my mentor**
- **Learning curve of instrumentation, technique, and keeping track of so many things at once**
- **The most difficult aspect of this REU was that fact that the grad/Postdoc student who I worked under was preoccupied with other projects. Other than that, he was extremely helpful and knowledgeable.**
- **Dealing with unexpected results, puzzling problems**
- **Panel discussion at night**

60. Describe ways in which your mentor(s) provided support to you.

- **Advice; grammar**
- **My mentor helped me to understand the subject and get into my work easier.**
- **He was awesome! He helped me a lot in all aspects of the project. (Dr. Kyu)**
- **Little interaction. I helped him some the first half of the summer and was forgotten about the second half. Anything I did felt judged as bad or wrong.**
- **He was always willing to take the time to explain concepts.**
- **Let me solve my problems in the lab and critical thinking skills**
- **He was always there to help.**
- **My mentor thoroughly explained my project at my level and was always open for questions and had helpful suggestions for me.**
- **Yes, he provided good support to me.**
- **The support was good, and he answered all my questions.**

- **Talking, demonstrating**
- **My mentor was an extremely friendly and knowledgeable advisor. Whenever I had a question, rather than answer it, he would tell me to look it up in a certain source. At first, I did not like this approach, but I realize that he was forcing me to be self sufficient.**
- **Directed me in what to do, answered all questions promptly and non-judgmentally, was generally a friendly cool guy.**
- **Intellectual/encouragement**

61. What was the greatest benefit to you from your participation in the REU?

- **Experience actual research**
- **Gaining research experience**
- **Graduate School connection and research experience**
- **Getting to say I participated and meeting the people here**
- **The experience I gained and the people I met**
- **Research experience and great new connections**
- **Great experience**
- **I learned a lot from the diverse group of interns and was able to narrow my research interests by talking to grad students and panelists.**
- **I'm learning about independent work, and this program contributed a lot for solving different problems.**
- **Now I am considering post-graduate education.**
- **Gaining experience in the lab, doing research**
- **I had an interest in polymers, so by coming out here I got a taste of what research would be like. It turns out that I did not necessarily totally enjoy the synthesis aspect of my project, but there are many other areas that I can pursue.**
- **I now know what graduate research is like.**
- **Contacts**

62. What suggestions do you have to improve future REU experiences?

- **None really**
- **Help the students to understand their subjects better**
- **Include dorm in the stipend, and give the \$6,000 without deducting the dorm expense**
- **Make project expectations clearer. Check in with individual students privately on experience multiple times during the summer.**
- **The housing set-up could have been more organized.**
- **Having another intern in my group would have made the beginning more comfortable.**
- **I think that is important prepare more before come, that is why I proposed communicate with more time the news to the interns.**
- **More social activities**
- **One suggestion would be to schedule weekend activities, like a trip to a baseball game of some city. Although, I guess this can be organized by the students themselves. Also, maybe have other ways of having research updates to ensure people are making progress weekly.**
- **The full kitchens this year were fantastic, and I used it all the time. Keep them!**
- **Don't force people to live on campus**

63. How did you learn about the REU Program in Polymer Science & Engineering at The University of Akron?

- 5** NSF Website
- 0** University of Akron website
- 1** ACS Website
- 5** Professor recommendation
- 1** Student recommendation
- 3** Other: * AICHE National Conference (1)
* Google (2)