

SUMMARY
The University of Akron
Research Experience for Undergraduates 2008
Student Pre-Survey

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information which will help REU staff better accommodate your goals, interests and background, and help document program outcomes. Your responses to the questionnaire are anonymous. You do not have to answer all of the questions, but your help is greatly appreciated.

SECTION 1

1. Gender: 7 Females 8 Males
2. Ethnicity: 2 Hispanic or Latino 13 Not Hispanic or Latino
 Race: 0 American Indian or Alaskan Native 2 Asian
 0 Black or African American 11 White
 0 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
3. My department: 12 Polymer Science 3 Polymer Engineering
4. This past year, I attended: 0 a community college 4 a 4-year non-research college 9 a 4-year research university
5. How many years of post-secondary education have you completed?
 0 None 1 One year 5 Two years 8 More than two years
6. Does either of your parents work in the field of math, science or engineering?
 8 Yes 6 No
7. Before attending the REU, how much research experience have you had in a research laboratory?
 10 None 0 One quarter, one semester, or one summer
 4 Two quarters, two semesters, or one year 0 More than one year
8. What was your **primary** reason for applying to the REU? **(Some chose more than one answer.)**
 14 Gain research experience 1 Learn about polymers
 1 Work closely with faculty 0 I plan to major in this field
 0 An instructor/professor suggested it 0 A friend of mine suggested it
 1 Increase my chances to get into graduate school 0 Increase my chances to obtain a job in this field
 0 Other (Please describe) _____
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9. At this time, what is the highest level of education you plan to achieve?
 0 Associate of Arts (AA) or vocational degree 0 Bachelors Degree, some graduate work
 1 Bachelors Degree 2 Masters Degree, some work toward doctorate
 3 Masters Degree 0 Other (Law degree, Medical doctor)
 7 Doctorate

SECTION 2 – Please tell us how much you know about the following categories by circling one number for each.

	Hardly Anything	Not Too Much	Some	Lots	Mean
10. Polymers	1 (3)	2 (6)	3 (5)	4	2.14
11. Developing research questions/hypotheses	1 (3)	2 (1)	3 (10)	4	2.5
12. Designing experiments	1 (2)	2 (5)	3 (7)	4	2.35
13. Laboratory safety	1	2	3 (5)	4 (9)	3.64
14. Basic lab techniques	1 (1)	2	3 (7)	4 (6)	3.28
15. Completing lab notebooks	1 (1)	2 (1)	3 (10)	4 (2)	2.92
16. Ethical and responsible conduct of research	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (11)	4	2.71
17. Designing PowerPoint presentations	1	2 (1)	3 (6)	4 (7)	3.42
18. Creating a research symposium poster	1 (2)	2 (6)	3 (5)	4 (1)	2.35
19. Oral presentation of research findings	1 (2)	2 (6)	3 (6)	4	2.28
20. Publishing an article for a research journal	1 (8)	2 (5)	3 (1)	4	1.5
21. Career pathways in the area of polymers	1 (6)	2 (7)	3 (1)	4	1.64

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

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
22. I clearly understand REU program goals.	1 (1)	2 (1)	3 (11)	4 (1)	2.85
23. I clearly understand the program's expectations for me.	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (10)	4 (1)	2.78
24. I look forward to learning more about polymers.	1	2	3 (3)	4 (11)	3.78
25. I am confident that I can do the experiments conducted in the REU program.	1	2	3 (8)	4 (6)	3.42
26. I want to work closely with my mentor this summer.	1	2	3 (5)	4 (9)	3.64
27. I am looking forward to working with faculty.	1	2	3 (4)	4 (10)	3.71
28. I want to learn about the daily activities of scientific researchers.	1	2	3 (6)	4 (8)	3.57
29. I am interested in a career in a scientific field.	1	2	3 (1)	4 (13)	3.92
30. Science helps me understand the world around me.	1	2	3 (4)	4 (10)	3.71
31. I do better in science than any other core subject (math, English, or social studies).	1	2 (2)	3 (6)	4 (6)	3.28
32. Sharing results with other scientists is an important part of the scientific process.	1	2	3 (2)	4 (12)	3.85
33. I am looking forward to getting to know the other REU students.	1	2	3 (3)	4 (11)	3.78

SECTION 4 – Please respond to the following questions.

34. Thinking ahead about your hopes and expectations for your REU, what would be the absolute best long-term outcomes for you?

- **Successful completion of REU; good relationship with mentor/good references; learning something new**
- **Finishing the research given to me and learning a lot about polymers and, hopefully, doing well on the final presentation**
- **To finish my project and learn a lot**
- **To gain research experience in a specific field of chemistry**
- **Being able to publish my project**
- **Learning how to conduct research and present effectively**
- **Admittance to a graduate program at The University of Akron**
- **I discover a love for being in the lab and doing research, which spurs me onto Graduate School, a Ph.D. in chemistry, and a career in research.**
- **The REU helps to decide if I want to go to grad school**
- **The REU gives me a chance to gain research experience and will help me to hone in my field of interests**
- **I hope to learn more about the research process, and I hope to be able to understand and successfully complete my tasks.**
- **My only hope is that this program will give me a good idea of what I would like to pursue in graduate school. As of now, I am not completely interested in one focus. I have a lot of interests; however, unless I can be certain of exactly what I want to pursue in grad school, I will probably work in industry for a few years.**
- **Strengthening my personal life and intellectuals so in the future to have a high performance doing research in industry**

35. At this time, what is your greatest concern/worry about participating in the REU?

- **I've never done any real research before, so I'm a little intimidated about working in a lab.**
- **The subject is the one that I don't have a lot of background**
- **Not being prepared enough and the presentation**
- **I don't have any major concerns**
- **Whether or not I can handle polymers and finishing the project within the allotted time**
- **Not being able to finish my project**
- **Dorms and free time/disappointing people**
- **The intensity. I have never participated in research before.**
- **I won't be able to complete my project, or conduct in a satisfactory manor. Also, that the hours will be very demanding.**
- **That I will not complete the project**
- **My greatest concern is my lack of experience with this field.**
- **I worry about being unqualified; however, I know the REU program expects undergraduates to be somewhat unqualified and accommodates accordingly.**

- I hope that I am interested in my project. I came out here not knowing exactly what the project would be about. I am studying chemical engineering, so I hope that I can apply what I have been learning; however, so far it looks like I will be working on a chemistry synthesis project.
- Language, because I'm not native

36. Please include any additional comments.

- I want to thank Dr. Pugh and Marj for making the process of application as smooth as possible. Thanks!
 - I'm very excited!!!
 - I appreciate the opportunity to be in the program because it is a good experience for strengthening my professional life. I hope to meet all the objectives of the program and continue the path of research.
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