

UNM MARC

Funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health the University of New Mexico's Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program offers research training and support to prepare students for graduate school. The goals are to increase the participation and competitiveness of underrepresented groups engaged in biomedically-relevant research by increasing research training opportunities. MARC supports talented UNM undergraduates with training that directly prepares them for careers in biomedical research. Fields of research could be biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computational biology, biophysics, mathematics, pharmacology, engineering or computer science.

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Why is this program important?

The Maximizing Access to Research Careers Program sponsored by the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences was established in 1975 to help develop the talent and to increase the number of Ph.D. degrees awarded among certain groups that have long been underrepresented in the biomedical sciences. Groups that are presently underrepresented in the biomedical sciences include African-Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, Native Americans and Pacific Islanders. By contrast, the demand throughout the nation for Ph.D.'s in the biomedical sciences from among these underrepresented ethnic groups is unprecedented.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a full time student at the University of New Mexico-Main Campus
- Cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher
- Be 2 years away from graduation
- Commitment to pursuing a Ph.D. in a biomedical research field
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Member of an underrepresented ethnic/racial group: women, veterans, people with disabilities, those from disadvantaged backgrounds as defined by NIH
- Have completed at least the first 2 years (60 cr/hrs) of the curriculum leading to a B.S. degree in biomedically-relevant degrees (e.g. biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computational biology, biophysics, mathematics, pharmacology, engineering or computer science.)

Program Requirements

- Work in the research laboratory 15 hours per week during the academic year AND 40 hours per week in the summer

- Carry out a research project for 2 years under the mentorship of a faculty member in the department of your choice
- Must not have any additional paid employment
- Pursue an honors thesis in your degree program



Program Benefits

- Paid travel to scientific meetings with mentor or lab members to present your research results
- Courses in critical thinking and research ethics.
- One summer conducting research at a partner institution, such as Harvard, MIT, University of Washington, etc.
- Stipend of \$12,336.00 per year for your 2 year research project (monthly stipend of \$1028.00)
- UNM tuition after scholarships and grants have been applied*
- Graduate school advisement and preparation

*Subject to available funding and NIH funding limits).