

RISE Mentor FAQ Sheet

PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

Edwin Barea-Rodriguez - PI

Aaron Cassill – Assoc. PI

Gail P. Taylor – Asst. PI

PROGRAM FOCUS: RISE (Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement) is an NIGMS-funded program designed to support underrepresented (financial, ethnic, disabled) students while they prepare for, or complete, a PhD. RISE undergraduates/trainees enter the program with a commitment to pursue a PhD, although those who are admitted for one year can also pursue Postbaccalaureate or bridge programs. Our emphasis is on the development of strong PhD students who will complete their degrees and pursue influential careers in the biomedical or behavioral sciences.

TIMESHEETS & HOURS: All RISE Trainees must submit a weekly time sheet. You must either physically sign it, or send Carmen an email approval for an electronic version.

Undergraduate (UG): 15 h/wk AY, 40 h/wk in Sum as mandated by NIH. Students will be notified if they can work extra hours over the winter break. **If a UG RISE trainee works more than 15 h during the AY or 40 in the summer they are volunteering for you; please do not approve these hours on a RISE timesheet because we cannot pay them.**

Doctoral: 20 h/wk year round. Extra hours may be added prior to holidays, to make up for worked holiday hours that will be deleted by the UTSA system. The program will provide instruction to the students.

MENTORING A RISE UNDERGRADUATE: RISE undergraduates are expected to eventually have a project of their own, which they will write up as a Thesis. We expect RISE mentors to meet with their mentee regularly, at least monthly. RISE trainees should attend your lab meetings and lab functions.

PROGRAM DURATION: All RISE UG trainees must be in good standing with the program, the university, or the graduate school to continue in the RISE program. Undergraduates may participate for one or more years. Doctoral students can participate for up to 5 years depending on their level when inducted. However, a full five years is unusual and trainees must be meeting degree milestones to continue to receive RISE funding.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE: If a student is not making satisfactory progress or attendance, please contact Dr. Taylor immediately. If an UG student expresses a desire for medically oriented professional degree, also please let us know.

EVALUATION: Please respond promptly to semester evaluations sent by the program.

RISE ACTIVITIES: The RISE Program activities usually run on Fridays between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM, depending on student level. Please encourage the students to attend all RISE activities. The RISE Calendars are available here:

Undergraduate: <http://utsa.edu/mbrs/calendar/UGcalendar.pdf>

Graduate: <http://www.utsa.edu/mbrs/calendar/Gradcalendar.pdf>

THESIS and FINAL ORAL: All RISE Trainees give a 15 minute Oral Presentation of their work in their final semester in the program. PhD students complete the standard Thesis that they defend for their doctorate. RISE UG trainees must also complete a thesis. The RISE UG thesis is identical to that of the Honors College. If they have a scientific paper and wrote it, they can fit it into a thesis format. <http://www.utsa.edu/marc/thesis.htm>.

PUBLICATIONS: Any publication (Paper, Chapter, or abstract) that a RISE Trainee is author upon must acknowledge the grant: NIH RISE GM060655

NIH PUBLIC ACCESS: Any scientific paper with a RISE-funded author be deposited in Pubmed Central, even if it is open access. This is frequently done by the publisher, but sometimes must be done manually by you. Please notify the publisher of the NIH funding during the submission/acceptance process of the paper.

<http://publicaccess.nih.gov/faq.htm>

https://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process.htm

SUMMER PROGRAM: All RISE UG trainees who will be in the program for more than 1 year must attend an extramural summer research program in a biomedically/behaviorally relevant field, hopefully outside of the city. This program is mandatory and established by our funding agency.

CREDIT FOR RESEARCH: All RISE UGs must complete either six credits of Honors College Research, Departmental Honors research, or, less desirably, 6 credits of Independent study credit directly related to their research with you.

CONFERENCES AND TRAVEL: We expect all RISE trainees to present locally and nationally. **Locally**, they should present at their College or Departmental Conference, as well as at the OUR Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry Showcase. All RISE trainees are funded to attend one national conference per grant year (Aug 1 – July 31). We desire all RISE trainees to attend a professional conferences annually even if they are not presenting. In their first year, UGs attend the SACNAS or ABRCMS conference with the group; in later years, they should attend a professional conference with you and your lab. **We can also fund short term travel for training purposes for PhD students.**

COS HONORS: All UG RISE Students in COS or COE must pursue College of Sciences or College of Engineering Honors, depending on major. Departmental Honors in Psychology is also desired. COS information is included below. For COE, modify the COS forms to say COE and submit to COE.

Honors Info and forms: <https://www.utsa.edu/sciences/students/college-honors.html>

Honors Catalog Entries:

COS: <http://catalog.utsa.edu/undergraduate/sciences/>

COE: <http://catalog.utsa.edu/undergraduate/engineering/>

COLFA: http://colfa.utsa.edu/psychology/honors_program

Thank you!