

MARC Mentor FAQ Sheet

PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

Edwin Barea-Rodriguez - PI

Aaron Cassill – Assoc. PI

Gail P. Taylor – Asst. PI

PROGRAM FOCUS: MARC (Maximizing Access to Research Careers) is an NIGMS-funded program designed to prepare underrepresented (ethnically, financially, and disability) for doctoral training in the biomedical sciences. MARC trainees enter the program with a commitment that they truly desire a PhD and will be pursuing one soon after graduation. Our emphasis is on the development of exceptional future PhD students, with credentials that will not only get them into premiere programs, but also make them strong candidates for NSF and Ford Foundation Graduate Fellowships.

PROGRAM DURATION: All MARC trainees will receive funding for 2 years, including the time that they spend in extramural training programs.

FUNDING, TIMESHEETS & HOURS: MARC trainees receive a \$1006/month stipend and 60% tuition payment (AY).

MARC Trainees do not have to submit a weekly timesheet, but should be putting in approximately 15 hours during the AY and 40 in summer. If your student works fewer hours, please contact Gail Taylor (Gail.taylor@utsa.edu) as soon as possible. Of course, you are free to be flexible with student hours near final exams and holidays. In summer, students should not be taking an excessive course load, but can take classes.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE: If a student is not making unsatisfactory progress or seems uninspired in the lab, please contact Dr. Taylor immediately. If an MARC trainee expresses a desire for medically oriented professional degree, also please also let us know.

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

ACADEMICS: Please monitor your MARC trainees to assure that they are not spending an excessive number of hours in the lab, and are thus endangering their coursework. If MARC trainees receive a C in one or two courses, they are placed in program probation and given one semester to improve. If a MARC trainee receives more than two C's, or a D or F grade, they may be suspended from the program immediately.

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

ACTIVITIES: MARC Program activities usually run on Fridays between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Please encourage your students to attend all MARC activities. The MARC Training Calendar is available here:

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

PUBLICATIONS: Any publication (paper, chapter, or abstract) on which a MARC Trainees is an author must acknowledge the grant: NIH MARC GM007717

GRANT APPLICATION: MARC trainees will be creating and, hopefully, submitting an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship in fall of their second year. Please assist them as you can, but this should be a project that they conceive on their own. Their undergraduate work can be their Preliminary Results, even if it is not related to what they propose.

NIH PUBLIC ACCESS: Any scientific paper with a MARC-funded author must 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 MARC trainees 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.

THESIS and FINAL ORAL: All MARC trainees must complete a thesis. The MARC thesis is identical to that of the Honors College. If they have authorship on a scientific paper and wrote it, they can fit it into a thesis format.

<http://www.utsa.edu/marc/thesis.htm> . MARC trainees will also give a 15 minute Oral Presentation in their final semester in the program.

HONORS: MARC students inducted in Summer 2016 and on, will also be members of the UTSA Honors College. Trainees in the COS or COE must pursue College of Science or College of Engineering Honors, depending on major. Departmental Honors in Psych 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>

CREDIT FOR RESEARCH: All MARC trainees 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: We expect all MARC 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 MARC trainees are funded to attend one national conference per grant year (June 1 – May 31). We desire all MARC trainees attend professional conferences even if they are not presenting. In their first year, they will attend the SACNAS or ABRCMS conference with the group; in later years, they should attend a professional conference with you and your lab.

Thank you!