

Tips for Supporting Low-Income Undergraduate Researchers

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If you understand your student's situation, you will be able to better design a research experience that meets the needs of your student. When students feel that you are understanding and empathetic, they will be better able to communicate their situation and needs with you.

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO DISCUSS THEIR PERSONAL AND FINANCIAL SITUATIONS WITH YOU



CREATE A WELCOMING RESEARCH COMMUNITY THAT IS INCLUSIVE OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS.

Students who feel a sense of belonging and community are more likely to stay in their research labs and have more beneficial research experiences. Some ideas to create a welcoming community include recruiting diverse lab members who can serve as peers and role models for low-income students, and having students work in groups or encourage students to come in at similar times.

Social events can be a great way to build community, but in some circumstances they can make low-income students feel excluded or uncomfortable. Make social events accessible by 1) paying for any expenses, 2) communicating the cost, 3) choosing convenient times and locations for lab events

OFFER FINANCIALLY INCLUSIVE SOCIAL EVENTS



OFFER COMPENSATION (FINANCIAL OR COURSE CREDITS)

If possible, advocate for compensated research experiences. Students who receive some form of compensation experience less academic/financial stress and describe more motivation to engage in their research. Some suggestions:

- Send students information on paid research opportunities
- Provide mentorship on students' applications for research funding
- Help students receive course credit for research

Low-income students often encounter time and transportation barriers that can limit their participation in research. Establishing and sticking to a clear work schedule that accommodates their needs will give them the needed support to succeed in their research experience.

WORK WITH STUDENTS TO CREATE A RESEARCH SCHEDULE THAT WORKS WITH THEM.

