Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC)

Program Description

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) designed the MARC program to prepare Juniors and Seniors majoring in biomedical sciences (Biology, Chemistry or Biochemistry at SFSU) for Ph.D. level biomedical careers. The program prepares qualified students by providing strong foundations in science, enrichment through honors courses, and high quality research experiences under the guidance of faculty mentors.

The goal of the SFSU MARC Honors program is ultimately to prepare a diverse student population for entrance into top-rated Ph.D. programs in the basic biomedical sciences. At SFSU we provide a unique academic support system and a stimulating research opportunity to undergraduate students who have been historically underserved. The program prepares students to become research/teaching scholars. Upon completion of the baccalaureate at SFSU the student is expected to gain admittance to a competitive Ph.D. program. Or, if further preparatory work is determined desirable by the student, the program director and the faculty mentor, the student will enter a Master’s program and upon completion of the MA/MS proceed to a Ph.D. program. The program at SFSU incorporates the following:

**Junior Year**

**Summer**
Full-time (32 hrs/wk) in the SFSU faculty mentor’s laboratory.
Doctoral School Preparation Workshop
GRE Preparation Workshop

**Academic Year**
Core course curricula by advising
MARC Honors Colloquia I & II. (Fall and Spring semester)
Minority Seminar Speaker Series (Fall and Spring semester)
Laboratory research under the faculty mentor’s supervision
Attendance at a professional scientific meeting

**Senior Year**

**Summer**
Off-campus research internship at a major research institution

**Academic Year**
Core course curricula by advising
MARC Honors Colloquia III & IV. (Fall and Spring semester)
Minority Seminar Speaker Series (Fall and Spring semester)
Laboratory research under the faculty mentor’s supervision
Attendance and presentation of research at a professional scientific meeting
Honors Genetics (Spring Semester)
Application to Ph.D. programs

The MARC program provides financial support in the sum of $11,172 annually (distributed in equal monthly stipends) plus 60% of tuition for the Junior and Senior years. Annual travel funds for attendance at a major scientific conference are also provided. MARC students receive this financial support to encourage full commitment to the goals of the program. Any outside employment is therefore not allowed. All MARC students are expected to maintain a B (3.0) grade point average. Student performance will be evaluated each semester and those students making appropriate progress will be continued.

NIH funds the MARC Honors program. All applicants will be considered.