

"The MARC program has provided excellent opportunities for me to develop the professional skills that are necessary for a contemporary scientist to excel in today's research environment. With the graduate school candidate pool becoming more competitive than ever, my experience in MARC has helped me stand out among a field populated with high quality students." Sealtiel Ortega-Rodriguez  
Class of 2017

## Is research right for you?

If you're like most college students, you probably feel you have enough to do without taking on extra work or responsibilities. However, if you are considering a career in research — or if you simply want to enrich your study and understanding of the sciences — doing undergraduate research can be very worthwhile. It can also be fascinating, exhilarating and a real eye-opener.

### How can doing undergraduate research help you?

Getting involved in research as an undergraduate can be beneficial in several ways:

- ◆ It will develop your understanding of how science works, and it's much more interesting to find answers for oneself, rather than reading them from a textbook. As one scientist remarked, "Scientists don't study, they explore."

- ◆ The thought patterns and work habits you develop in doing research will be useful to you in graduate school and in your future career, even if it's not in science. Research requires you to define problems, think logically, purpose and test solutions, and solve problems. It sharpens your ability to observe and to think about what you have observed.
- ◆ You can use your research experience to test your vocation. One former English literature major switched to biology after participating in a research project, because, as she said, "With science, I owned my own project." It is wise, however, to confirm that you can deal with the frustrations, uncertainties, and delayed rewards of research through first-hand experience.
- ◆ Participating in different kinds of research will allow you to explore career options in a variety of research arenas, such as academic or industrial. You should also evaluate the experience of the scientists you work with to see if their lifestyle is one you would enjoy.
- ◆ Having research experience is always a plus when applying to graduate school. In some cases, undergraduate research experience is a prerequisite for participating in research projects as a graduate student.

## New Mexico State University

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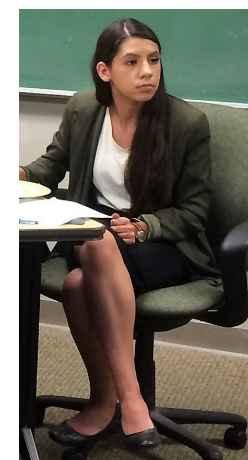


## All About Discovery



## Maximizing Access to Research Careers

Training tomorrow's scientists



"The MARC Program provided me the opportunity to participate in research where I have learned how exciting and dynamic science can be. Along the way, I formed lasting friendships with my MARC fellows and great relationships with my mentors. Because of MARC, I feel confident and prepared going into graduate school."

Mary Frances Stofan  
Class of 2017

## What is the MARC Program?

To increase the numbers of underrepresented groups in the biomedical and behavioral sciences and to diversify the research workforce, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) established the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program in 1975. The MARC program at NMSU has been funded since 1977 to aid students obtaining advanced degrees in the biomedical research sciences by supporting and training 21 undergraduate junior and senior honors students from 12 disciplines. To date, New Mexico State University's (NMSU) MARC Program has worked with over 320 MARC scholars, the majority of whom have gone on to receive advanced post-graduate degrees.



"The MARC Program has given me the opportunity to gain research experience, learn about graduate school options, and develop my communication skills. I am very happy to be a part of the program because it has given me the confidence that I need

in preparation for graduate school. With the support of MARC and the guidance of my mentor I have been able to earn placement in a summer research internship at Harvard University."

Daniella Barraza Class of 2018



Mónica Muñoz, Matthew Amato, Sierra Strebe, and Jordan Salas during Summer 2016 debate.

### What MARC fellows do and receive:

- ◆ Partner with a faculty mentor and perform research in their lab for up to two years.
- ◆ Attend and present research at national professional conferences in their field all over the country.
- ◆ Attend workshop on Toxicology. Training in ethics and a public debate on an ethical issue.
- ◆ Obtain honors credit by enrolling in a special MARC research and graduate school preparation course each semester.
- ◆ Meet outstanding researchers from leading institutions and graduate programs.
- ◆ Participate in summer research at leading institutions (Harvard, Stanford, the Mayo clinic, National Institutes of Health, Johns Hopkins University, etc.) around the country.
- ◆ Receive academic and financial support.

### Who can apply?

- Currently enrolled at NMSU in at least 15 credits.

- Juniors and Seniors with two more years remaining majoring in:
- Animal & Range Science, Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Entomology Plant Pathology & Weed Sciences, Fishery & Wildlife Science, Genetics, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Chemical Engineering, and Physics .
- With a minimum GPA of 3.2.

### For more information and an application:

*Selections are made once a year, the end of spring semester. Completed applications are due in the MARC office by April 15.*

- Call the MARC Program 575-646-3476
- Stop by the office in Chemistry room W292
- Visit the MARC website: [marc.nmsu.edu](http://marc.nmsu.edu)



2011 ABRCMS Conference in St. Louis, MO