

Mentored Undergraduate Summer Experience 2024

Student Agreement Form

Student Agreement Form Deadline: March 29, 2024*
Program Dates: June 3 - July 26, 2024

Faculty and students who will be training collaboratively on MUSE projects in the summer of 2024 are encouraged to participate fully in the MUSE community. The program mission and structure are outlined below. Please sign and return this Student Agreement Form to the Co-Directors of Faculty-Student Scholarly and Creative Collaborative Activity (fscollab@tcnj.edu) by March 29, 2024 (*as or as soon as possible thereafter).

PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of the Mentored Undergraduate Summer Experience (MUSE) is to foster a vibrant campus culture of faculty student collaboration on scholarly and creative projects. Faculty members advance their scholarship and creative activities as mentors to a select number of students who train as junior collaborators. Students benefit from a powerful learning experience, while gaining necessary preparation for graduate education and professional endeavors as apprentice practitioners. Together they enhance the scholarly community at The College of New Jersey.

The MUSE program encourages participation from **all academic programs and Schools**. The program recognizes that research methods and practices differ across the disciplines. Any proposal that meaningfully includes undergraduate students in some aspect of the faculty member's scholarly/creative program is welcome.

PROGRAM GOALS

The Mentored Undergraduate Summer Experience involves student-faculty collaborative partnerships from a broad range of academic disciplines in an intensive 8-week, residential summer program. Ideally, a diverse population of faculty and students from **all seven academic Schools** will participate. The program aims to:

- Provide a cohesive set of coordinated activities and experiences designed to foster the intellectual independence, professional growth, and personal growth of the student participants.
- Support faculty scholarly and creative activity.
- Facilitate an inclusive cross-disciplinary MUSE community (e.g., discussions, workshops, research forums, professional development programming, community building events).
- Attract external funding (grants, gifts, sponsorships) to augment the ongoing funding provided by the Office of Academic Affairs, in order to grow the program.
- Foster outcomes from faculty-student projects (e.g., performances, exhibitions, conference presentations, manuscripts, grant proposals).
- Foster early engagement of students in original projects.
- Help students develop skills to increase their ability to think critically and/or increase their sense of curiosity.
- Help students develop skills that will benefit their academic work and future careers.
- Support student entry into competitive graduate programs and employment.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The 2024 MUSE program will begin on June 3 and run through July 26, 2024. Faculty and students should be available to train collaboratively during the majority of this 8-week time period and generally should not plan extended absences from

campus during the program. Students will train full-time with their faculty mentors for the 8-week period from June 3 - July 26, 2024. MUSE students will be housed together and will have the opportunity to participate in community-building social activities and trips in the evenings and on weekends, coordinated by a student committee. Meals are not included (students may purchase meals in the Student Center and use kitchen facilities available in the residence hall and approved appliances in their rooms). The coordinated activities associated with housing are an important aspect of the MUSE community and program, so students are strongly encouraged to live on campus.

Community Activities: Students and mentors who receive funding are encouraged to participate in cross-disciplinary MUSE community activities as their project schedules allow. The Co-Directors of Faculty-Student Scholarly and Creative Collaborative Activity will be responsible for organizing these activities, with input from mentors and students. These activities will consist of:

- **Community Lunches and Professional Development Sessions:** The community will meet for presentations and discussions over lunch (provided) on general topics such as networking, resume preparation, publicity, awards, and presentations to a lay audience. Participation at the opening and closing lunches are strongly encouraged (Monday, June 3, 2024, and Monday July 22, 2024).
- **Informal Meetings:** Funding will be provided to purchase group breakfast or lunch so that related fields can meet on a weekly basis to discuss their needs and issues. The discussions, developed by the participants, can include topics such as reading the primary literature, writing, ethics, graduate schools, poster preparation, and careers.
- **Community Building and Networking Activities:** Opportunities to network with no particular learning agenda, such as ice cream socials, sports, and weekend/evening activities. Some activities will be for the entire MUSE community, whereas others will be just for students or just for faculty.
- **End-of-program celebration:** Students will present their scholarly achievements at a campus-wide poster session at some point during the first three weeks of Fall Semester (tentatively, September 10, 2024 from 12:30 to 1:50 pm in The Recreation Center).

Student Expectations: Students are expected to participate in MUSE activities and present at the MUSE poster session. Students participating in MUSE will be required to:

1. train full-time on the MUSE project during the 8-week MUSE program (projects that are externally funded may extend beyond the 8-week program).
2. actively participate in MUSE Community Activities and Professional Development Sessions during the 8-week MUSE program, in consultation with your Faculty Mentor.
3. prepare a final abstract and deliver a presentation at TCNJ's annual MUSE Poster Session in the Fall of 2024.
4. complete evaluations of the summer experience.

By signing below, the student and mentor affirm that the student will participate in the required activities.

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Printed Name

Faculty Mentor's Signature

Date

Faculty Mentor's Printed Name