

## FAQ's

### **Am I limited to mentors and/or projects that are currently listed on the website?**

No, you can work with ANY Loyola faculty member who agrees to provide research mentorship. The list shows the individuals who have volunteered to serve as medical student research mentors. Faculty mentors are limited to 2 STAR students each session so be sure to clarify this with your proposed mentor.

### **Outside Mentors:**

You may work with mentors from the Hines VA. However, while you may work with research mentors outside of Loyola or Hines, you may not receive Loyola funding for this work.

### **Do you favor basic versus clinical projects or vice versa when making decisions about funding?**

No. The projects are based on overall scientific merit and quality of the research experience for the student. This decision is made without favoring basic vs. clinical research. If you are interested in research, it is good to have an exposure to both at some point. While most clinicians end up doing clinical research, having an understanding of how a basic laboratory works is an excellent research opportunity.

### **Can I participate in the Ignation Service Immersion (ISI) program through HSC Ministry as well as the 8-week Summer Research Program?**

Yes, but only if you apply for an ISI trip that occurs during Spring Break or any other trips that do not conflict with the 8-week commitment of the STAR program. Students who wish to do an extended ISI experience of 2 weeks or more, or who wish do an ISI experience in June or July, are encouraged to seek alternative research experiences during the remainder of their summer (outside of the STAR program). Students can visit [www.luc.edu/isi](http://www.luc.edu/isi) to learn more about the ISI offerings.

### **Is the STAR Program required to qualify for the Research Honors Program?**

Yes. The STAR program, or a pre-approved equivalent research education program, is required for admission to the Research Honors Program.

### **How many STAR seminars are required?**

Satisfactory completion of the STAR program requires attendance at all eight of the STAR seminars.

**How will I know if my summer research can qualify as a STAR-equivalent program so that I can join the Research Honors Program?**

It is best to have pre-approval for your plans. You should provide documentation that the program is full time for 8 weeks and you have a designated research mentor who agrees to supervise and evaluate you. Following completion of the program, you will need to provide a letter from that mentor after your experience attesting that you have completed 8 weeks of full time research education and a description of the educational curriculum/experiences. The mentor letter should also provide a recommendation for you to enter the Research Honors Program.

**Is poster presentation required at the St. Albert's Celebration of Research my M2 year?**

Yes. All Summer Research Program participants are required to prepare and present a poster of their summer work in the fall at the campus-wide Research Day. You do not have to present at each and every St. Albert's Day, but our most successful students often do!

**Can I audit the STAR Seminar Series while I am in town, even if I am not participating in the entire STAR Program?**

Yes. In fact, the faculty ENCOURAGES you to participate in these seminars whenever you can.