Master's-Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (MUSE)
Pilot Program 2023–2024
College of Science and Health

MUSE supports DePaul undergraduate students to conduct research or other creative activities with the guidance of a Master’s level or Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) student mentor. The project may be based on the graduate student’s thesis or DNP Project. MUSE also aims to facilitate undergraduate student retention and support for students from diverse, underrepresented groups.

This program contributes to the visibility and value graduate programs add to undergraduate student learning and training; engages students in collaborative, funded research; provides mentorship and mentoring opportunities for students; and enhances the university’s mission to serve students from underrepresented backgrounds. This combined portfolio of objectives positively influences student success by providing meaningful experiences, developing mentoring relationships, and linking scholarship and teaching at DePaul University.

FEATURES OF THE MUSE AWARD

- Funding at $1,500 ($750 per student) for the year, including:
  - $750 to each student at the beginning of the program term contingent on the initial award and IRB approval (if required). Funds may be used to cover research costs, supplies, travel for conference presentations, or other expenses.

ELIGIBILITY

**Undergraduate student:** Has completed at least 16 quarter hours of courses at DePaul; has a cumulative DePaul GPA of 2.75 or higher (current unofficial transcript will be reviewed); and has a declared College of Science and Health major.

**Master’s student:** Has completed at least one (1) quarter of graduate school at DePaul in a terminal Master’s degree-granting program or Doctor of Nursing Practice program (DNP) from the College of Science and Health and has support from a faculty mentor for the project.
Student matches across programs or majors are accepted. Undergraduate and graduate student graduation should be June 2024 or later; however, applicants with an expected graduation date of March 2024 will be considered.

SELECTING AN APPROPRIATE MUSE MENTEE

Undergraduate and graduate students need to select a partner prior to applying for this mentorship program and will complete a joint application. Please discuss the project prior to applying to outline roles, learning goals, and timeline. Each student will complete an application. Graduate students may advertise their project through their unit and/or discuss it with their faculty mentor, and interested undergraduate students should share their research interests with faculty and students for successful matching.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND REVIEW CRITERIA

- **This year’s applications are due May 1, 2023.** To be considered, the undergraduate and graduate MUSE applications and faculty sponsorship must be in by the deadline. Late proposals will not be accepted. Mentoring for the program will begin in the Spring quarter, following notification of the award in May, with faculty sponsor overseeing the mentoring relationship.

- Applications will be evaluated based on the quality, feasibility, and potential importance of the research project as well as on the completeness and readability of the application. Priority will be given to partnerships that include undergraduate students who identify as being from an underrepresented minority group. Meaningful roles and learning goals should be identified for the undergraduate mentee. Roles are flexible and may include literature review, data collection, coding, assistance with experiments, data entry, etc. A realistic timeline and mentorship plan should also be developed.

EXPECTATIONS OF Awardees

1. Awardees are required to present at the CSH Undergraduate STEM Research Showcase and any other unit-level forum. Presentations at regional and/or national conferences in your field are encouraged. Publications in *DePaul Discoveries* or a journal in your field is also encouraged.

2. The MUSE pair completes and submits a brief final report reflecting upon their experience, learning goals achieved, and accomplishments to CSHResearch@depaul.edu by **May 31, 2024**.

A Master's or DNP student may be part of one (1) MUSE research collaborative per academic year, and funding priority will be given to new applicants.

Research projects involving human or animal participants will require IRB approval. Funding is
contingent upon such approval. It is highly encouraged that students select research projects that already have IRB approval to complete the project in a timely manner.

For further information or questions, please contact Dina Khdaier at CSHResearch@ depaul.edu.