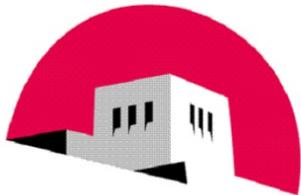


# **Assessment of PREP: Academic Year 2009 - 2010**



**The University of New Mexico**

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## Introduction

The University of New Mexico's Postbaccalaureate Research and Education Program (PREP) is a mentoring program with the primary goal of enhancing the ability of individuals from under-represented groups who recently received a Bachelor's degree to gain entry into graduate PhD programs. PREP has defined several objectives in order to attain this goal:

1. To recruit high-quality under-represented scholars to the program.
2. To develop and realize individualized training plans to provide laboratory research experience and academic training to improve the skill set of the scholar.
3. To provide additional training modules to develop the professional skills of the scholar.
4. To investigate the parameters impacting graduate school retention.
5. Utilize data to improve graduate training at UNM.

Funding for PREP is provided through a 4 year \$1.39 million grant from the Minority Opportunities in Research section of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences at the National Institutes of Health. PREP employs their scholars with an annual salary of \$21,000, plus health and dental benefits. PREP also covers costs of tuition for classes pertinent to the research the scholars will be conducting while in the program, vouchers are given to cover the cost of Graduate Records Examination (GRE) preparation courses and cost of the GRE, and a stipend exceeding \$1000 per scholar is provided for scholars to attend conferences to learn about and present research.

The minimum admission requirements to PREP are (PREP, 2010):

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or be a Permanent Resident.
- Must be a member of a group found to be under-represented in biomedical research. These include: ethnic groups such as, but not limited to, Hispanic, Native American/American Indian, African-American, native of the US Pacific Islands; individuals with disabilities; and individuals from otherwise disadvantaged backgrounds arising from social, cultural, economic or educationally-challenged backgrounds.
- Be a recipient of a Bachelor's degree within the 36 months prior to the time of admission into the Program.
- Be demonstrably committed to pursuing a Ph.D. in a biomedical research field, and carrying out research that will help to reduce health disparities.
- Have a tangible need to complete an additional year of training before applying to graduate school. This might arise from the applicant having little or no research laboratory experience; or from an applicant wishing to pursue a degree in a field distinct from that in which they received their Bachelor's training.
- Be willing to participate in a group training program that is designed to enhance their research education and career development.
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 (out of 4.0).

Similar to applying to graduate school, each year there are a limited number of positions to be filled by potential scholars. Approximately 50 prospective PREP scholars apply to the program each year (based on 2009 and 2010 estimates by PREP staff). Out of the pool of applicants, up to 9 scholars can be chosen to attend PREP each year. Although all areas of an application are

taken into consideration, the content of the statement letter (i.e. the need/want of the applicant to participate in PREP) is weighed more heavily.

PREP scholars are matched with a faculty mentor in their chosen field of study and research. Mentors reported either being recruited to PREP by being contacted by the PREP Director, or self recruiting once hearing of the program through a student or fellow faculty member. The PREP academic year varies from scholar to scholar. Scholars enter the program based upon their own specific schedule between June and August of a given year and attend until the program ends in June of the following year. Throughout the academic year scholars meet with their mentors regularly, and participate in research full-time. Some of the scholars complete research projects of their own, and some shadow graduate student teaching assistants. Depending on the research lab a scholar is placed in, the scholars' schedules and who they interact with can vary. The majority of the scholars engage with their mentor, laboratory supervisor, graduate students within their lab, and the PREP program director regularly.

The University of New Mexico's Institute for Social Research (ISR) was contracted by PREP to provide annual assessments of the program through the duration of the current grant. Comprehensive pre and post program surveys were developed to gather data from both scholars and mentors. The scholars also participated in a post interview with the intention at gaining further insight into the strengths and weaknesses of PREP and to ask scholars survey questions that were more appropriate to ask in an interview setting. The interview questionnaire and surveys are included in the appendix of this report. The surveys were constructed based upon previous surveys used for other PREP programs, and from information gathered from the PREP Director. The post scholar interview questions were constructed in conjunction with the PREP Director. During the first year of PREP the PREP Director and ISR staff met 6 times, and communicated via email on a monthly basis. Detailed demographic information on the scholars was collected by the PREP Director and provided to ISR staff.

## **Scholars**

### *Demographic Information*

During the 2009-2010 academic year 9 Scholars who met the minimum requirements were offered positions with PREP (1 of the scholars chose not to participate in any of the surveys or interviews for this study and so is not included in the study). The scholars ranged from 22 to 27 years of age, with the reported ethnicities/races of the scholars being 5 Hispanic/Latino, 2 Native American, and 1 White. The majority of scholars graduated in the Spring of 2009 (1 in the Fall of 2007, and 1 in the Fall of 2008) with Bachelor degrees in the fields of Biology, Microbiology, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Pathology, and Psychology with an average GPA of 3.45. Four of the scholars graduated from the University of New Mexico, 2 from the University of Texas at El Paso, 1 from Fort Lewis College, 1 from Doane College, and 1 from Northern Arizona University. Two scholars reported being the first in their family to attend college and 3 (including the preceding 2) reported being the first in their family to graduate college. The average education earned by the scholars' parents was a high school diploma with attendance in, but not graduating from college. Two of the sixteen parents graduated college with bachelor's degrees, and two more earned master's degrees.

*Prior to PREP*

The majority of scholars reported hearing about PREP through a faculty member or professor. Scholars stated their primary reason for applying to PREP was to prepare for graduate school, with the secondary reason being to improve their chances of admission to graduate school, and their tertiary reason being to figure out their life/career path. The majority of scholars reported knowing what the PREP program entailed prior to attending. Two of the scholars stated they applied to graduate school before being accepted to PREP and six of the scholars reported having alternative plans if they were not accepted into PREP. Scholars were asked to report on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being very important and 5 being unimportant, how important various aspects of PREP were in their decision to apply. All 8 of the scholars reported the laboratory research experience gained through PREP was very important in their decision process to apply to PREP. Table 1 reports the scholars' average ratings of the importance of aspects within PREP in their decision to apply to PREP.

**Table 1. Important Aspects in the Decision to Apply to PREP**

	Average Rating by Scholars
Career Planning Support	1.8
Professional Training Activities	1.9
Laboratory Research Experience	1.0
Graduate Level Coursework	1.9

Prior to attending PREP, 2 of the scholars reported having reservations about participating in PREP. Four scholars reported being very excited about PREP, 3 scholars were excited, and one scholar was not excited. Two scholars had taken measures to prepare themselves for PREP. All 8 scholars reported setting goals prior to attending PREP, and all 8 reported meeting those goals on the post survey.

### *Academia*

Figures from the pre and post survey regarding which academic area the scholars believed to be their strongest academic area changed very little; the number of scholars reporting which academic area was their strongest are reported in Table 2. However, there was a large change in the reporting of the scholars' weakest academic areas between the pre and post survey. The scholars' reported weakest academic areas changed from engineering and social sciences on the pre-survey to engineering and chemistry on the post survey; the number of scholars reporting which academic area was their weakest are reported in Table 3.

**Table 2. Scholar's Reported Strongest Academic Area**

	Before PREP	After PREP
Biological Sciences	4	5
Chemistry	2	2
Mathematics	1	0
Social Sciences	1	1

**Table 3. Scholar's Reported Weakest Academic Area**

	Before PREP	After PREP
Biological Sciences	0	1
Chemistry	0	2
Mathematics	1	1
Social Sciences	3	1
Engineering	3	3
Other	1	0

Four of the scholars attended math and science courses while attending PREP. Two scholars believed the math and science courses were extremely helpful, one thought the courses were very helpful, and one scholar reported the courses as being only somewhat helpful.

On average, the scholars reported being slightly more engaged in academic activities before PREP than after PREP. Engagement in academic activities was measured by the scholars self report on a scale between 1 and 4, 1 representing often and 4 representing never, on how often they participated in specific academic related activities. Table 4 reveals the average scholars' reported level of engagement in academic activities before attending PREP and after.

**Table 4. Engagement in Academic Activities**

	Average Rating by Scholars	
	Before PREP	After PREP
Worked harder to meet instructor's expectations	1.4	1.9
Set Specific goals for academic performance	1.3	1.3
Discussed ideas from readings with others outside of class	1.3	1.6
Have worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework	1.9	2.4
Discussed ideas from readings or classes with faculty members outside of class	2.0	2.5

*Graduate Record Examination (GRE)*

Prior to attending PREP, 2 scholars took the GRE and neither scholar was satisfied with their score. While attending PREP 4 scholars took or re-took the GRE. Table 5 lists the number of scholars who took the GRE and their satisfaction with their scores. Two of the scholars were satisfied, 1 was content, and 1 was very dissatisfied with their GRE scores. Half of the scholars reported they believe graduate schools only consider their highest GRE scores if taken multiple times, and if they freeze up when taking the GRE they have the option to erase their GRE scores from their records. The majority of scholars reported the belief that students can still be accepted into graduate school if they do not meet the schools' minimum GRE scores. It would be beneficial for scholars if PREP informed the scholars of the universal GRE facts and of the differing GRE policies different schools applicants are applying to have.

**Table 5. Satisfaction with GRE Scores**

	Number of Scholars who took GRE Before PREP	Number of Scholars who took/re-took GRE During PREP
Very Satisfied with Score	0	1
Satisfied with Score	0	1
Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	0	1
Not Satisfied with Score	2	0
Very Dissatisfied with Score	0	1
Did Not Take GRE	6	4

The pre and post surveys gathered information from scholars on their typical test taking experiences. Scholars were asked on a scale of 1 to 4, 1 being not at all typical of them and 4

being very typical of them, to rate their typical test taking experiences. The post survey revealed that scholars on average felt more confident, relaxed, and better about time limits on tests than before they attended PREP. However, there was an average increase in the number of scholars who reported they are thinking about the consequences of failing a test, and who felt they were unable to show how much they really knew about a subject on a test, which makes them a poor test taker. While Scholars felt more confident about their tests taking experiences the average scores never exceeded a 3 suggesting that Scholars lack some confidence. Table 6 shares these results for the pre and post survey.

**Table 6. Typical Test Taking Experiences**

	Average Rating by Scholars	
	Before PREP	After PREP
Thinking of the consequences of failure	1.9	2.4
Do well on tests with time limits	1.8	2.4
Feel confident and relaxed	1.9	2.5
Tests do not allow me to show how much I really know, which makes me a poor test taker	2.1	2.1

*Research*

Scholars were asked to report on a scale between 1 and 5, 1 meaning strongly disagree and 5 meaning strongly agree, how confident they were to perform specific academic research tasks. The average confidence level of the scholars to perform all levels of academic research rose between the start and end of participating in PREP in 3 of 6 areas. The areas in which they did not increase were: confidence to plan and organize a major project from beginning to end, confidence to develop a research proposal, and confidence to apply mathematical knowledge in the lab. Table 7 compares the average confidence level of the scholars to perform academic research at the start and end of participating in PREP.

**Table 4. Confidence to Perform Academic Research**

	Average Rating by Scholars	
	Before PREP	After PREP
Confident to summarize main points of a scientific paper	4.0	4.1
Confident to know what steps to take next during an experiment	3.5	4.4
Confident to recognize strengths and limits of a scientific method or test	3.9	4.3
Confident in presenting scientific paper at a conference	3.3	3.6
Confident to develop a research proposal	3.3	3.0
Confident to plan and organize a major project	3.6	3.5
Confident in mathematical ability	3.0	3.1
Confident to apply mathematical knowledge in the lab	3.0	2.9

*PREP Activities*

Table 8 reports the averages of how often the scholars participated in certain training activities and how helpful they thought the training activities were. The frequency of the activities occurring was reported by scholars on a scale of 1 to 5. For research and GRE preparation activities the frequency scales were: 1 = rarely or never, 2 = once or twice a week, 3 = 3 to 4 times a week, 4 = everyday, and 5 = more than once a day. The frequency scale for professional activities was: 1 = once or twice a week, 2 = once or twice a month, 3 = once or twice a semester, 4 = once to twice a year, and 5 = rarely or never. The helpfulness of the activities was reported by scholars on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 representing not at all helpful and 4 representing extremely helpful. Research was reported as the most helpful training activity.

**Table 8. Frequency and Helpfulness of Training Activities**

	Number of Reporting Scholars	Average Rating by Scholars	
		Frequency of Activity Occurring	Helpfulness of Activities
Research	8	1.8	3.1
GRE Preparation	8	2.1	2.9
Professional	6	3.3	2.2

Scholars were asked to rate the amount of time they spent on certain activities while attending PREP on a scale of 1 to 3, 1 symbolizing too little time spent, 2 symbolizing right amount of time spent, and 3 symbolizing too much time spent. The majority of scholars reported they wished they had spent more time with their mentor, more time developing their research ideas, more time building pertinent computer skills necessary for their research, and 37.5% of the scholars wish they had dedicated more time to making their research presentation. Table 9 lists the scholars' average ratings of how much time they spent on activities while in PREP.

**Table 9. Time Spent on Specific PREP Activities**

	Average Rating by Scholars
With Mentor	1.5
On Making Research Presentation	1.8
Attending PREP Meetings	2.4
Attending Lab Meetings	1.9
Interacting with PREP Faculty and Staff	2.0
With Help to Think About What to do With Life	2.0
On Coursework	2.0
Preparing for GRE	2.1
Working on Research	1.9
Developing Research Ideas	1.3
Learning Research Process	1.9
Building Computer Skills	1.4
Preparing Graduate School Application	2.0

### *Career*

The scholars were asked on the pre and post surveys on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 symbolizing strongly disagree and 5 symbolizing agree strongly, their opinion of becoming a career scientist. Table 10 shows how the thought of being a career scientist progressed from the beginning of PREP to the end. Overall it appears that the scholars' opinion, which was high to begin with, of becoming a career scientist, became increasingly positive. It should be noted that 3 of the scholars did not complete these questions on the post survey.

**Table 10. Scholar's Opinion of Becoming a Career Scientist**

	Average Rating by Scholars	
	Before PREP	After PREP
Career in a science laboratory would be fun	4.5	4.6
Worried do not have what it takes to be a successful research scientist	2.4	2.6
Would be Proud to be called a scientist	4.8	4.6
Collaborating with others on scientific ideas, projects and papers is attractive	4.3	5.0
Search for scientific knowledge would be boring	1.9	1.2

\* 3 of the scholars' results from these questions were missing from the post survey

Based on results from the pre and post surveys, and the post PREP interviews of the scholars, all of the scholars believed that participating in PREP will and has helped with defining and reaching career goals. Five of the scholars completed an individualized career plan while attending PREP: 3 believed the career plan was very helpful, 1 thought it was somewhat helpful, and 1 thought the career plan was not helpful at all. Half of the scholars changed their career paths after participating in PREP, with four of the scholars no longer wanting to pursue a career as a research scientist. All scholars reported still wanting to pursue graduate school in some capacity.

Scholars reported their confidence level on a scale between 1 and 4, 1 representing not at all confident and 4 representing very confident, to gain admission into a graduate PhD program. The confidence level of the scholars rose slightly from an average of 3.13 before attending PREP to 3.38 after attending PREP.

### *Experience being Mentored*

All of the scholars participated in research meetings with their faculty mentor. The frequency of meeting with the mentors varied for the scholars. Half of the scholars reported they felt they spent too little time with their mentors while the other half felt they spent the right amount of time meeting with their mentors. All of the scholars found the meetings with their mentors to be helpful. Scholars reported the frequency of their meeting with various individuals involved with their scientific research and PREP on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = rarely or never, 2 = once or twice a week, 3 = 3 to 4 times a week, 4 = everyday, and 5 = more than once a day). Table 11 lists average reported frequency of the meeting by the scholars. It is noted that one scholar reported that they rarely or never met with their mentor, and one scholar reported meeting with their mentor everyday. When the reported frequencies between the scholars and mentors were compared, they reflected each other.

**Table 11. Frequency of Meetings with Individuals within PREP**

	Average Frequency of Meetings Reported by Scholars
Mentor	2.3
Lab Supervisor	3.0
Grad Students in Lab	2.8
Grad Students from Other Labs	1.8
Program Directors	2.0

The scholars were asked to rate their interactions with their mentor on a scale of 1 to 4 with 1 being very positive, 2 being positive, 3 being somewhat positive, and 4 being negative. The average rating of the scholars was a positive rating of 1.9. It should be noted that one of the scholars rated their interactions with their mentor as negative. Table 12 shows the scholars' average rating of how positive the interactions with various persons they met with on a regular basis while attending PREP.

**Table 12. Ratings of Interactions with Individuals within PREP**

	Number Reporting Scholars	Average Rating by Scholars
Mentor	8	1.9
Lab Supervisor	2	1.7
Grad Students in Lab	6	1.5
Grad Students from Other Labs	6	2.2
Program Directors	6	1.6

All scholars reported having adequate mentoring support to pursue a scientific career prior to beginning and after attending PREP. Seven scholars reported before attending PREP that they had one or more career type mentors in their lives, and 5 scholars reported after attending PREP

they had more than 1 career mentor in their life (3 scholars did not answer this question on the post survey). Five of the 8 reporting scholars disclosed they could turn to immediate family for career advice.

After attending PREP all of the scholars reported having adequate support in their lives to pursue a scientific career. The scholars were asked if they considered certain individuals they interact with in PREP a career mentor. The scholars reported their rating on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 standing for strongly disagree and 5 standing for strongly agree. One scholar reported they strongly agree that their mentor was a career mentor for them, while another scholar reported they strongly disagree that their mentor was a career mentor for them. Table 13 displays the average results from scholars.

**Table 13. Scholar’s Consideration of Career Mentors in PREP**

	Number Reporting Scholars	Average Rating by Scholars
Mentor	8	3.3
Lab Supervisor	3	3.7
Grad Students in Lab	6	3.7
Program Directors	8	4.3

All scholars except one reported they would recommend their mentor to future PREP scholars. Scholars were asked: “What was the most important quality in a mentor?” The scholars reported the most important qualities of mentors are approachableness, friendliness, patience because scholars need more support than graduate students, have a desire to help students improve, and the most important quality in a mentor reported was availability.

### **Mentors**

#### *Prior to PREP*

Seven mentors participated in PREP during the 2009-2010 academic year. The mentors were assistant, associate, and tenured professors from the University of New Mexico ranging in years of service between 7 and 34 years. The professors first learned of mentoring in PREP by either being contacted by the PREP Director, or informed of PREP by a student or fellow faculty member.

The majority of mentors (71.4%) never participated in a mentoring program as a mentee, but 85.7% had participated in a mentoring program before as a mentor. Table 14 displays the number of the mentors who previously participated in a mentoring program as either a mentee or mentor

**Table 14. Previous Participation in a Mentoring Program as a Mentee or Mentor**

	Number of Mentors	
	Yes	No
Participated as a Mentee Prior to PREP	2	5
Participated as a Mentor Prior to PREP	6	1

Table 15 shows the mentors engagement in various student activities in the past 2 years prior to their involvement with PREP. All mentors reported involvement in some type of student activity beyond classroom lectures within the past two years prior to mentoring in PREP.

**Table 15. Engagement in Student Activities in Past 2 Years**

	Number of Mentors	
	Yes	No
Advised student groups involved in service/volunteer work	3	4
Taught seminar to 1st year students	3	4
Engaged undergrads on own research projects	7	0
Worked with undergraduates on research projects	7	0
Hired student employees	7	0

Mentors were asked to rate reasons that influenced their decision to participate in PREP on a scale between 1 and 3, 1 corresponded with not at all and 3 corresponded with a lot. Table 16 lists the mentors' average ratings of reasons for choosing to participate in PREP.

**Table 16. Reasons that impacted the decision to participate in PREP**

	Average Rating by Mentors
Enjoy working with undergraduate students	2.6
Experience will help develop better students	3.0
Undergraduate students need research opportunities	2.9
Experience will encourage students to pursue advance training/education	2.9
Important to promote diversity within the higher education setting	2.7
Experience will provide students with critical research skills	3.0
Experience will enrich the university	2.6

### *Views on Mentoring*

Through the comparison of pre and post survey results it was found that the mentors' agreement increased as to whether serving as a mentor is a valuable use of their time, that faculty members can have an important impact on the direction of a student's career, and how serving as a mentor can make the mentor a better instructor. However, the mentors' opinions of working with graduate students in a laboratory setting, the skills undergraduates possess to engage in laboratory research, and the motivation of undergraduate students possess to engage in laboratory research decreased. Table 17 lists the average ratings of the mentors' opinions disclosed on the pre and post surveys. The rating scale was between 1 and 5, with 1 meaning strongly disagree and 5 meaning strongly agree.

**Table 17. Mentor's Opinions**

	Average Ratings by Mentors	
	Before PREP	After PREP
Serving as a mentor to undergraduate students is a valuable use of my time	4.1	4.4
Faculty members can have important effect on the direction of a student's career	4.7	4.9
Serving as a mentor will make me a better instructor	3.9	4.1
Prefer working with graduate students in the laboratory setting	4.3	3.5
Research assistants can make valuable contributions in the research setting	4.7	4.7
Many undergraduate students lack the skills necessary to engage in laboratory research	3.6	4.3
Many undergraduate students lack the motivation necessary to engage in laboratory research	3.4	3.6

The overall confidence level of the mentors to positively affect the lives of young scientists, of possessing the necessary resources to be an effective mentor, and ability to provide scholars with valuable laboratory research experience remained relatively consistent from the beginning to the end of the PREP academic year. Mentors rated their confidence level on a scale between 1 and 4, with 4 representing very confident and 1 representing not at all confident. Table 18 shows the average confidence level disclosed by mentors before and after PREP.

**Table 18. Confidence Level of Mentors to be Effective**

	Average Ratings by Mentors	
	Before PREP	After PREP
I have the ability to positively affect the lives of young scientists	3.4	3.7
I have the resources necessary to be an effective mentor	3.4	3.3
I will be able to provide PREP scholars with a valuable laboratory research experience	3.9	3.9

*Mentoring Scholars*

On the post survey, mentors were asked how often they held one on one meetings with their scholar. The majority of the mentors, 66.7%, reported they held one on one meetings with their scholars 1 to 2 times a week on average. All mentors held research meeting with their scholars, with 85.7% of the mentors reporting holding these meetings 1 to 2 times a week on average. The topic most discussed during the research meetings was concerning work on the research project, and the topic least discussed during these meetings was on academic course work. No discrepancies were found between the scholars' and mentors' reporting of how often meetings were held.

Mentors were asked how significant of an impact they believe they had on their scholars. Six mentors of the 7 answered this question with 2 mentors believing they had a tremendous impact on their scholars, and 4 mentors believing they had a great impact on their scholars.

*PREP Experience*

All mentors reported they would recommend fellow colleagues to mentor with PREP. The majority of mentors, 85.7%, reported that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the research laboratory experience with their scholars and overall experience with PREP. One mentor did report being very dissatisfied with their overall experience with PREP.

## **Summary**

The overall goal of PREP to enhance the ability of individuals from under-represented groups who recently received a Bachelor's degree to gain entry into a graduate PhD program appears to be succeeding. Although half of the scholars changed their career paths since entering PREP, all of the scholars remain motivated to enter a PhD program of some type. At the end of PREP's academic year the scholars reported being more confident to gain entry into graduate school, more confident to perform academic research, and more satisfied with their GRE scores.

Two of the 5 objectives PREP has defined in order to reach their goal appear to have been met, with a third objective, which was not easily measured, potentially being met as well. These 3 objectives are discussed below. The remaining 2 objectives (to investigate the parameters impacting graduate school retention and to utilize data to improve graduate training at UNM) which PREP hopes to meet are beyond the scope of ISR's current study.

PREP's objective to recruit high-quality under-represented scholars is not easily measured, as the competitiveness of PREP's application process is undefined. All but one of the 8 scholars was from under-represented groups. Each scholar was selected from a pool of approximately 40 to 50 prospective PREP applicants. Applicants are chosen with the highest priority going to how well the prospective applicants relay their need/want to participate in PREP in their statement letter, which can be subjective, rather than their academic standing which is easier to quantify. Recommendations for improvements to the application process are presented in the following section.

The objective "To develop and realize individualized training plans to provide laboratory research experience and academic training to improve the skill set of the scholar," appears to be met as shown by scholars participating in scientific research in collaboration with their mentor, and attending academic courses in order to augment their research abilities. The scholars' self reported increase in their confidence level to perform academic research also provides evidence of this objective being met.

The scholars reported in the post interview that one of their greatest experiences during PREP was attending the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) conference. Attendance of the SACNAS conference, participation in scientific research, and attending additional courses provided an avenue for PREP to meet the objective of providing scholars with additional training modules in the development of professional skills.

## **Recommendations**

Recommended adjustments to PREP come from three sources: scholars, mentors, and information from the surveys.

From the post interview survey scholars noted the following adjustments to the program could be useful:

- Scholars need to have the freedom to find a mentor who loves the field they are in because the mentor makes the experience for the scholars

- A list of mentors and all the mentors' research interests should be presented to the scholars before the scholars choose a mentor
- A larger pool of potential mentors needs to be available
- Scholars should be provided with a list of questions to ask mentors in order to make a good first impression
- Mentors need to be available for more mentor-scholar meetings
- Scholars need more time and assistance in developing their research ideas
- Scholars need more time to build pertinent computer skills necessary for their research
- Some scholars wish they had more time to create their research presentation
- It would be beneficial for scholars to have the option to attend PREP for 2 years as 1 year seemed overwhelming and rushed

On the post interview survey mentors were able to share recommendations they would like to see implemented in PREP:

- The duration of PREP needs to be extended for scholars
- Match scholars only into labs they have a strong research interest in, this will increase the motivation of scholars
- Scholars who's research requires them to perform and collect research in the field rather than solely in a laboratory setting need to be informed of and agree to following the established regulations and policies of any site they visit
- Require scholars to write a short report, either a brief paper or an abstract, with their mentor
- Scholars would be better integrated into labs if they were allowed a greater allotment of time to spend in the labs

PREP's greatest strengths are the laboratory research experiences provided, scholar-mentor meetings, and professional conferences. In general mentors would like more mentor-scholar meetings.

The overall consensus from scholars and mentors on the area that could be improved regards the duration of PREP. To address this issue, program staff could consider adjusting the start and end date of the PREP's academic year from June of a given year to June of the following year, to June of a given year to August of the following year. This suggested change would add approximately 3 months to the PREP academic year. The additional 3 months would result in an overlap between incoming and outgoing scholars. During these 3 months outgoing scholars would have an opportunity to advise incoming mentees which could further enhance PREP. The salaries paid to 18 scholars rather than to 9 scholars during the 3 months of overlap would need to be taken into consideration. In addition, an option could be presented to scholars at the beginning of PREP to attend for either 1 or 2 academic years. Due to fiscal constraints within the PREP budget, and time limitations of mentors and PREP staff lengthening the duration of PREP may not prove to be feasible.

Mentors and scholars reported two other areas of PREP that could be improved. These two areas could be improved with a single change. Some of the mentors reported a lack of motivation from their scholars. The majority of the scholars recommended that PREP establish a list of possible mentors and their research interests to facilitate a better match between them and a mentor. The solution to improving these two areas potentially lies in PREP's application process. The application process to PREP could be changed to more resemble applying to some graduate school programs. Prospective scholars could see an established list of potential mentors, their research interests, and contact information. The prospective scholars would then be able to contact mentors to find whose lab they might best fit into. Prospective scholars would provide a priority ranking list of mentors they would prefer to work within their PREP application statement letter. The scholars would be required to express their interest and intention of working in the specific mentors' research areas in the statement letter as well. The mentors could then be given a chance to agree to mentoring specific scholars who have contacted them during the application process. This change in the application process would help to ensure the motivation of a PREP scholar's interest and intention of working in a defined research area within a specific laboratory under a chosen mentor, and potentially create a stronger match between mentor and scholar. By default this change in application process would only enhance the objective of PREP to recruit high-quality under-represented scholars to the program, and make the recruitment process of prospective PREP scholars more competitive.

### **Future Assessments**

One of the multiple choice questions posed to the mentors in the pre-survey "Are you currently serving in an administrative position as: ...," did not provide any substance to the study. All of the mentors for both the reported academic year of 2009-2010, and the current academic year 2010-2011 either chose the answer "Not applicable," or left the question blank. This question will be removed from future surveys. We may also add other questions.

Some of the scholars and mentors, and the PREP director suggested to ISR staff that the surveys ISR administers for PREP be administered online. ISR staff plans to investigate the possibility of implementing online surveys, and to investigate limitations that may hinder the construction of the online surveys, such as budget constraints.

## **References**

Postbaccalaureate Research and Education Program (2010). Retrieved on October 16, 2010 from the University of New Mexico PREP's official website: <http://biology.unm.edu/PREP/eligibility.asp>



The University of New Mexico

# University of New Mexico Survey

## PREP Scholar Pre-Program Survey

You will spend the next year as a PREP scholar and research assistant here at the University of New Mexico. The UNM Institute for Social Research would gather information on your opinions, knowledge and expectations of the PREP program. Thank you for completing the survey.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you the first person in your family to go to college?

- a) Yes
- b) No

2. Are you the first person in your family to graduate from college?

- a) Yes
- b) No

3. How many persons do you have in your life that you would consider to be a career mentor? (*NOTE: A career mentor is someone who takes a personal interest in helping you to develop your career.*)

4-9. Please indicate how much you disagree or agree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I am confident that I could write a summary of the main points of a scientific experiment.					
I am confident that I would have a good idea of what to try next after looking at an experiment.					
I am confident that I could recognize the strengths and limitations of a specific method or test.					
I am confident that I could present an original paper at an academic/scientific conference or meeting.					
I am confident that I could develop all of the elements of research proposals including: context setting, statement of research questions, literature review, and the costing of the research project.					
I am confident that I could plan and organize one individual major project (or two/three small projects) through the stages of the project life cycle (from start up to exploitation of findings).					

10-12. Please indicate how confident you are with each of the following statements.

	Not at all confident	Somewhat confident	Pretty confident	Very confident
I am confident in my ability to apply my mathematical knowledge in the laboratory setting.				
I am confident in my mathematical knowledge.				
I am confident in my ability to gain admission to a PhD science program.				

13. Which of the following would you consider to be your strongest academic subject area? (Circle one only please)

- a) Biological sciences
- b) Chemistry
- c) Mathematics
- d) Social sciences
- e) Laboratory/seminars
- f) Engineering
- g) Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

14. Which of the following would you consider to be your weakest academic subject area? (Circle one only please)

- a) Biological sciences
- b) Chemistry
- c) Mathematics
- d) Social sciences
- e) Laboratory/seminars
- f) Engineering
- g) Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

15. Did you take the GRE prior to being accepted to PREP?

- a) Yes
- b) No

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16. If yes, how satisfied were you with your GRE score?

- a) Very satisfied
- b) Satisfied
- c) Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- d) Dissatisfied
- e) Very dissatisfied

17-19. Please indicate if each of the following statements is true or false.

	True	False
If you take the GRE more than once, graduate schools usually only consider your highest score.		
Many graduate schools set minimum GRE score levels below which virtually no applicants are accepted.		
If you "freeze up" on the GRE, you can have your test score erased from your record.		

20-23. Please indicate how typical the following statements are in your experience.

	Not at all typical	Only somewhat typical	Quite typical of me	Very typical of me
During tests I find myself thinking of the consequences of failure.				
I do well in tests where there are time limits.				
When taking a test, I feel confident and relaxed.				
I am a poor test taker in the sense that my performance on a test does not show how much I really know about a topic.				

---

**24-28. In the past year, how often have you engaged in the following activities.**

	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
I have worked harder than I thought I could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations.				
I have set specific goals for my academic performance.				
I have discussed ideas from my readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)				
I have worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)				
I have discussed ideas from my readings or classes with faculty members outside of class.				

**29. On a scale from 1-5 how excited are you to start PREP, with 1 representing very excited and 5 not excited at all.**

1      2      3      4      5

**30. Prior to starting the program, had you taken any steps to prepare yourself for PREP?**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**31. If yes, please describe the steps you took to prepare yourself for PREP.**

---

**32. Have you set any goals for yourself regarding your participation in PREP?**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**33. If yes, please describe those goals.**

**34. Do you have any reservations/concerns regarding your participation in PREP?**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**35. If yes, please describe those reservations/concerns.**

**36. How did you hear about PREP?**

- a) Newspaper
- b) Email contact
- c) PREP website
- d) Career fair
- e) Professor/faculty member
- f) Friend
- g) Other (please specify)\_\_\_\_\_

**37. Which of the following reasons best describes your reasons for applying to PREP (select up to 3).**

- a) To prepare for graduate school
- b) To improve my chances of admission to graduate school
- c) To get work experience
- d) To figure out what I want to do with my life
- e) To improve my academic record
- f) Other (please describe)\_\_\_\_\_

---

38. Did you apply to a graduate program prior to applying to PREP?

- a) Yes
- b) No

39. In the case that you were not accepted to PREP, did you have alternative career/educational plans?

- a) Yes
- b) No

40. If yes, please describe those plans.

41. How much would you say you know about PREP?

- a) A great deal
- b) Much
- c) Some
- d) A little
- e) Almost nothing

Think back to your decision to apply to PREP. How important were the following program components to your decision to apply.

42. How important was the career planning support in your decision to apply to PREP?

- a) Very important
- b) Important
- c) Moderately important
- d) Of little importance
- e) Unimportant

---

43. How important were the professional training activities in your decision to apply to PREP?

- a) Very important
- b) Important
- c) Moderately important
- d) Of little importance
- e) Unimportant

44. How important was the opportunity to gain laboratory research experience in your decision to apply to PREP?

- a) Very important
- b) Important
- c) Moderately important
- d) Of little importance
- e) Unimportant

45. How important was the opportunity to complete graduate level coursework in your decision to apply?

- a) Very important
- b) Important
- c) Moderately important
- d) Of little importance
- e) Unimportant

46. Which program component do you consider to be the most important to you?

47. Why do you consider this to be the most important in your decision to apply to PREP?

48. Generally, what do you most hope to gain from your experience as a PREP scholar?

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49. What are you long term career goals?

50. Do you think participating in PREP will help you to reach your career goals?

a) Yes

b) No

51. If yes, how do you think participating in PREP will help you to reach your career goals?

52-56. Please indicate how strongly you disagree or agree with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
Spending a career working in science laboratory would be fun.					
I am worried that I do not have what it takes to be a successful research scientist.					
I would be proud to be called a scientist					
The idea of collaborating with other on scientific ideas, projects, and papers is highly attractive to me.					
The search for scientific knowledge would be boring					

---

57. Do you feel you have adequate support in your life to pursue a scientific career?

- a) Yes
- b) No

58. Do you feel you can turn to members of your immediate family regarding career advice?

- a) Yes
- b) No

59. Please circle the answer below that best describes your race/ethnicity.

- a) White
- b) Black/African American
- c) Hispanic/Latino
- d) Native American
- e) Asian/Asian Indian
- f) Pacific Islander

---

60. What is the highest level of education that your parent(s) completed? (Mark one box per column.)

	Mother/ female caregiver	Father/ male caregiver
Did not finish high school		
Graduated from high school		
Completed a trade program		
Attended college but did not complete degree		
Completed an associate's degree (A.A., A.S., etc.)		
Completed a bachelors degree (B.A., B.S., etc)		
Completed a master's degree (M.A., M.S., etc)		
Completed a doctoral degree (PhD., J.D., M.D., etc)		

**Thank you for completing our survey.**



The University of New Mexico

# University of New Mexico Survey

## PREP Scholar Post-Program survey

You have spent the past year as a PREP scholar and research assistant here at the University of New Mexico. The UNM Institute for Social Research would gather about your experience as a PREP scholar. Thank you for completing this survey.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Did you complete an Individualized Career Plan (IDP)?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  
2. If yes, how helpful did you find the Individualized Career Plan?
  - a) Not at all
  - b) Somewhat
  - c) Very
  - d) Extremely
  - e) Does not apply
  
3. Did you take math and sciences courses as a part of PREP program?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  
4. If yes, how helpful did you find your math and sciences courses to be?
  - a) Not at all
  - b) Somewhat
  - c) Very
  - d) Extremely
  - e) Does not apply

---

5. Did you participate in research meetings with you faculty mentor?

- a) Yes
- b) No

6. If yes, how often did you participate in these research meetings with your faculty mentor?

- a) Rarely to never
- b) Once or twice a week
- c) 3-4 times a week
- d) Every day
- e) More than once a day

7. How helpful did you find meetings with your faculty mentor to be?

- a) Not at all
- b) Somewhat
- c) Very
- d) Extremely
- e) Does not apply

8. Did you participate in research training activities during your time in PREP (*NOTE: includes oral presentations of your research, campus forums, posters or talks, and professional meetings*)?

- a) Yes
- b) No

9. If yes, how often did you participate in these events?

- a) Rarely to never
- b) Once or twice a week
- c) 3-4 times a week
- d) Every day
- e) More than once a day

10. How helpful did you find these research training events to be?

- a) Not at all
- b) Somewhat
- c) Very
- d) Extremely
- e) Does not apply

---

**11. Did you participate in professional training activities during your time in PREP**  
(NOTE: *includes professional meetings with participants of MARC, Bridges, IMSD, etc, Responsible Conduct in Research trainings*)?

- a) Yes
- b) No

**12. If yes, how often did you participate in these events?**

- a) Rarely to never
- b) Once or twice a week
- c) Once or twice a month
- d) Once or twice a semester
- e) Once or twice a year

**13. How helpful did you find these professional training activities to be?**

- a) Not at all
- b) Somewhat
- c) Very
- d) Extremely
- e) Does not apply

**14. Did you participate in GRE/Grad School preparative activities** (NOTES: *including GRE preparation, work on letters and personal statements, mock school interviews*)

- a) Yes
- b) No

**15. How often would you say you participated in GRE/Graduate School preparative activities ?**

- a) Rarely to never
- b) Once or twice a week
- c) 3-4 times a week
- d) Every day
- e) More than once a day

**16. How helpful did you find the GRE/Graduate School preparation activities to be?**

- a) Not at all
- b) Somewhat
- c) Very
- d) Extremely
- e) Does not apply

17-21. During the average work week, how often did you have ONE-TO-ONE INTERACTION with the following people?

	Rarely to never	Once or twice a week	3-4 times a week	Everyday	More than once a day
Mentor					
Lab supervisor (leave blank if same as mentor)					
Grad students within lab					
Grad student from other labs					
Program directors					

22-26. How would you rate the interactions you've had with each of the following people?

	Very positive	Positive	Somewhat positive	Somewhat negative	Negative	Very negative
Mentor						
Lab supervisor (leave blank if same as mentor)						
Grad students within lab						
Grad student from other labs						
Program directors						

---

27. Generally, do you feel you have adequate support in your life to pursue a scientific career?

- a) Yes
- b) No

28. How many persons do you have in your life that you would consider to be a career mentor (NOTE: Career Mentor is defined as someone who takes a personal interest in helping to develop your career as a scientist)?

29-32. Please indicate how strongly you disagree or agree with the following statements (NOTE: Career Mentor is defined as someone who takes a personal interest in helping to develop your career as a scientist)?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither disagree or agree	Agree	Agree strongly
I consider my FAULTY MENTOR to be a potential career mentor.					
I consider my LAB SUPERVISOR a potential career mentor (leave blank if same as faculty mentor).					
I consider one or more of the GRADUATE STUDENTS within my lab to be potential career mentors.					
I consider PREP PROGRAM DIRECTORS to be potential career mentors.					

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33-38. Please how strongly you disagree or agree with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither disagree or agree	Agree	Agree strongly
I am confident that I could write a summary of the main points of a scientific experiment.					
I am confident that I would have a good idea of what to try next after looking at an experiment.					
I am confident that I could recognize the strengths and limitations of a specific method or test.					
I am confident that I could present an original paper at an academic/scientific conference or meeting.					
I am confident that I could develop all of the elements of research proposals.					
I am confident that I could plan and organize one individual major project (or two/three small projects).					

39–41. Please indicate how confident you are with the following statements.

	Not all confident	Somewhat confident	Pretty confident	Very confident
I am confident in my ability to apply my mathematical knowledge in the laboratory setting.				
I am confident in my mathematical knowledge.				
I am confident in my ability to gain admission to a PhD science program.				

42. Which of the following would you consider to be your strongest academic subject area?

- a) Biological sciences
- b) Chemistry
- c) Mathematics
- d) Social sciences
- e) Laboratory/seminars
- f) Engineering
- g) Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

43. What would you consider to be your weakest academic subject area?

- a) Biological sciences
- b) Chemistry
- c) Mathematics
- d) Social sciences
- e) Laboratory/seminars
- f) Engineering
- g) Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

44. Did you take the GRE prior to being accepted to PREP?

- a) Yes
- b) No

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45. In the past year, have you re-taken the GRE?

- a) Yes
- b) No

46. How satisfied with your re-take score on the GRE?

- a) Very satisfied
- b) Satisfied
- c) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- d) Dissatisfied
- e) Very dissatisfied

47-49. Please indicate if each of the following statements is true or false.

	True	False
If you take the GRE more than once, graduate schools usually only consider your highest score.		
Many graduate schools set minimum GRE score levels below which virtually no applicants are accepted.		
If you "freeze up" on the GRE, you can have your test score erased from your record.		

50-53. Please indicate how typical the following statements are in your experience.

	Not at all typical	Only somewhat typical	Quite typical of me	Very typical of me
During tests I find myself thinking of the consequences of failure.				
I do well in tests where there are time limits.				
When taking a test, I feel confident and relaxed.				
I am a poor test taker in the sense that my performance on a test does not show how much I really know about a topic.				

---

**54-58. In the past year, how often have you engaged in the following activities.**

	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Worked harder than I thought I could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations.				
I have set specific goals for my academic performance.				
I have discussed ideas from my readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)				
I have worked with faculty members on activities other than coursework (committees, orientation, student life activities, etc.)				
I have discussed ideas from my readings or classes with faculty members outside of class.				

**Think back to when you started the program.**

**59. Did you set any goals related to your participation in PREP?**

- a) Yes
- b) No

**60. If yes, did you reach those goals?**

- a) Yes
- b) No

---

61-65. Please indicate how strongly you disagree or agree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
Spending a career working in science laboratory would be fun.					
I am worried that I do not have what it takes to be a successful research scientist.					
The idea of collaborating with other on scientific ideas, projects, and papers is highly attractive to me.					
I would be proud to be called a scientist.					
The search for scientific knowledge would be boring.					

**Thank you For Completing our Survey.**

## **PREP Scholar Post-Program Interview Questions**

**SCRIPT:** *I am going to ask you about your satisfaction level with different components of PREP.*

**1. Overall, what program activities did you find the most helpful (list to up 3)?**

*(Program activities include: Faculty mentor assignments, laboratory research experience, professional training activities (conferences; seminars), Individualized Career Plans; graduate school coursework.)*

**2. Q21: Overall, what program activities did you find the least helpful (list up to 3)?**

**3. Have your career goals changed since you started the program?**

Yes

No

**4. If yes, please describe how your career goals have changed since you started PREP.**

**5. Do you think having participated in the PREP program will help you to reach your career goals?**

Yes

No

**6. If yes, how will your participation in PREP help you to reach your career goals?**

**7. Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of *professional trainings* provided?**

a. Very satisfied

b. Satisfied

c. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

d. Dissatisfied

e. Very dissatisfied

**8. What would you do to improve the professional trainings?**

**9. Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of faculty-mentor relationship?**

- a. Very satisfied
- b. Satisfied
- c. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- d. Dissatisfied
- e. Very dissatisfied

**10. What would you do to improve this aspect of PREP?**

**11. Overall, how satisfied are you with your research laboratory experience?**

- a. Very satisfied
- b. Satisfied
- c. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- d. Dissatisfied
- e. Very dissatisfied

**12. What would you do to improve the research laboratory experience?**

**13. Overall, how satisfied are you with your experience in the PREP program?**

- a. Very satisfied
- b. Satisfied
- c. Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- d. Dissatisfied
- e. Very dissatisfied

**SCRIPT:** *Now I am going to ask a few questions specific to your faculty mentor.*

**14. Would you recommend your current faculty mentor as a future faculty mentor to future PREP scholars? Why or why not?**

**15. What qualities do you deem important in a faculty mentor for the PREP program?**

**16-18. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
I would recommend PREP to other post-baccalaureates considering graduate school.					
I have been exposed to a variety of biomedical research areas.					
I have a more “realistic” view of what to expect as a graduate student.					

**19. Were there any surprises or unclear expectations of the PREP program? If yes, please describe.**

**20-32. Please indicate how much time you feel you spent on various aspects of PREP program.**

	Too Little Time	Right amount of time	Too much time
Taking coursework			
Preparing for the GRE			
Learning how to make a research presentation			
Attending PREP meetings			

Attending lab meetings			
Meeting with my mentor			
Interacting with PREP faculty and staff			
Helping me think about what I want to do with my life			
Working on a research project in the lab			
Developing my own research ideas			
Learning the research process (idea generation, study design, data collection, analyses)			
Computer skill building activities			
Preparing my graduate school application			



The University of New Mexico

# University of New Mexico Survey

PREP Faculty Mentor  
Pre-Program Survey

You will spend the next year as a faculty mentor to a PREP scholar . The University of New Mexico Institute for Social Research would like to gather some information from you related to your opinions, knowledge and expectations of the PREP program. Thank you for completing this survey.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your present academic title?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What is your tenure at the University of New Mexico?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Are you currently serving in an administrative position as:
  - a) Department chair
  - b) Dean (Assoc or Asst)
  - c) President
  - d) Vice president
  - e) Provost
  - f) Other
  - g) Not applicable
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What is your highest degree earned:

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5. How many total years have you served as a faculty member? (NOTE: include all institutions where you have worked).

6. How did you first learn about the PREP?

7. Why did you chose to participate as a faculty mentor for the PREP program?

8. Have you ever participated in a mentoring program as a mentee prior to participating in PREP? (NOTE: A mentee refers to a person who is the recipient of mentoring of a program.)

- a) Yes
- b) No

9. Have you participated in a mentoring program as a mentor prior to applying to PREP?

- a) Yes
- b) No

10-14. During the past two years have you engaged in any of the following activities?

	Yes	No
Advised student groups involved in service/volunteer work.		
Taught a seminar for first-year students.		
Engaged undergraduates on your research project.		
Worked with undergraduates on a research project.		
Hired a student employee.		

---

15-21. Rate the degree that the following impacted your decision to participate in PREP.

	Not at all	A little	A lot
I enjoy working with undergraduate students.			
I think the experience will help develop better students.			
Undergraduate students need research opportunities.			
The experience will encourage students to pursue advanced training/education.			
I think it is important to promote diversity within the higher education setting.			
I think the experience will provide students with critical research skills.			
The experience will enrich our college/university.			

22. What do you hope to gain from participating in PREP?

---

23-29. Please indicate how strongly you disagree or agree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Serving as a mentor to undergraduate students is a valuable use of my time.					
Faculty members can have important effect on the direction of a student's career.					
Serving as a mentor will make me a better instructor/teacher.					
I prefer working with graduate students in the laboratory setting.					
Research assistants can make valuable contributions in the research setting.					
Many undergraduate students lack the skills necessary to engage in laboratory research.					
Many undergraduate students lack the motivation necessary to engage in laboratory research.					

---

30-32. Please indicate how confident you are in each of the following statements.

	Not at all confident	Somewhat confident	Pretty confident	Very confident
I have the ability to positively affect the lives of young scientists.				
I have the resources necessary to be an effective mentor.				
I will be able to provide PREP scholars with a valuable laboratory research experience.				

**Thank you for completing our survey.**



The University of New Mexico

# University of New Mexico Survey

PREP Faculty Mentor  
Post-Program Survey

You have spent the past year serving as a faculty mentor for the PREP program . The University of New Mexico Institute for Social Research would like to gather some information from you related to your experiences in the program. Thank you for completing this survey.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. During the average week, how often did you have ONE-TO-ONE Interaction with your PREP scholar?**

- a) Rarely to never
- b) Once or twice a week
- c) 3-4 times a week
- d) Every day
- e) Every day
- f) More than once a day

**2. How would you rate the ONE-TO-ONE interactions you've had with your PREP scholar?**

- a) Very negative
- b) Negative
- c) Somewhat negative
- d) Somewhat positive
- e) Positive
- f) Very positive

---

As a part of the PREP project, you have spent the past year working in the laboratory setting with your PREP scholar. The following questions relate to the content of your ONE to ONE research meetings with your PREP scholar.

3. Did you hold research meetings with your PREP scholar?

- a) Yes
- b) No

4. If yes, how often did you participate in these meetings?

- a) Rarely to never
- b) Once or twice a week
- c) 3-4 times a week
- d) Every day
- e) More than once a day

5. What topics were most frequently addressed during your meetings with your PREP scholar?

- a) Research work/assignments
- b) Academic coursework
- c) Career support
- d) Other (please explain)\_\_\_\_\_

6. Which topics were the least frequently addressed during your meetings with your PREP scholar?

- a) Research work/assignments
- b) Academic coursework
- c) Career support
- d) Other (please explain)\_\_\_\_\_

---

**7-13. Please indicate how strongly you disagree or agree with the following statements.**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Serving as a mentor to undergraduate students is a valuable use of my time.					
Faculty members can have important effect on the direction of a student's career.					
Serving as a mentor will make me a better instructor/teacher.					
I prefer working with graduate students in the laboratory setting.					
Research assistants can make valuable contributions in the research setting.					
Many undergraduate students lack the skills necessary to engage in laboratory research.					
Many undergraduate students lack the motivation necessary to engage in laboratory research.					

---

**14-16. Please indicate your confidence level with the following statements.**

	Not at all confident	Some-what confident	Pretty confident	Very confident
I am have the ability to positively affect the lives of young scientists.				
I have the time and resources necessary to be an effective mentor.				
I will be able to provide PREP scholars with a valuable laboratory experience.				

**17. How much impact do you feel you have had on your PREP scholar (i.e., on values, school performance, resolving professional problems, etc.)?**

*(Circle One tremendous great somewhat very little none)*

*Please explain your response.*

**18. Overall, how satisfied are you with the research laboratory experience?**

*(Circle One Very satisfied Satisfied Neither satisfied or unsatisfied Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied)*

*Please explain your response.*

---

19. What would you do to improve the research laboratory experience?

20. Overall, how satisfied are you with your experience in the PREP program.

*(Circle One Very Satisfied Satisfied Neither satisfied or unsatisfied  
Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied)*

*Please explain your response.*

21. What was the most valuable part of the program?

22. How could the PREP program be made more useful for you?

23. Would you recommend participating to colleagues?

a) Yes

b) No

**Thank you for completing our survey.**