



Monarchs Maximizing Access to Research Careers (M-MARC) Undergraduate Student Training for Academic Research (U*STAR) supports students' academic and research activities while they train to enter Ph.D. programs. M-MARC Trainees begin the program when they are **Juniors** majoring in **Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Computer Science, or Psychology**. They receive excellent financial benefits, exceptional professional training and research experiences, and participate in outreach activities. M-MARC Trainees make exceptional candidates for doctoral program admission and are very strong candidates for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, and other discipline specific fellowships.

Specific benefits of being an M-MARC Trainee include:

Research Opportunities

- M-MARC Trainees obtain "hands-on" research experience in research laboratories at ODU and participate in an extramural summer research experience in the summer before their senior year.
- M-MARC Trainees dedicate 15 hours per week to professional development activities and research.

Honors College Benefits

- M-MARC Trainees are required to apply to the Perry Honors College. If accepted, M-MARC trainees will receive **benefits** reserved for Honors College students, including Honors housing, Honors advising & priority registration, scholarship, and travel grant opportunities.

Financial Benefits

- The M-MARC program is an NIH T34 National Research Service Award and provides a stipend to M-MARC Trainees which is approximately \$1000 per month.
- M-MARC Trainees are provided with 100% of their tuition & fees.
- Travel and conference expenses.
- Travel, housing, and a stipend during external summer research experience.

Professional Development Opportunities

- Critical thinking, verbal, & quantitative skills workshops
- Hands-on research training by the Biomedical Mentors
- Departmental seminars & scientific colloquia
- Weekly journal club
- Networking opportunities with faculty & students
- Conferences attendance
- Summer research experience
- GRE, MCAT, and discipline specific Graduate Research Fellowship application preparation assistance
- Understanding the structure of graduate school applications

For more information about your eligibility** for the **Monarchs Maximizing Access to Research Careers (M-MARC) U*STAR Traineeship** program, and to request an application for Fall 2021 please contact Dr. Desh Ranjan, Professor of Computer Science (e-mail: dranjan@odu.edu) or Dr. Alvin Holder, Associate Professor of Chemistry (e-mail: aholder@odu.edu).

**M-MARC applicants must be interested in pursuing a Ph.D. degree in Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Computer Science, or Psychology, and be underrepresented in the sciences for one of the following reasons:

- Black/African-American, Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, Native American/Alaskan Native
- Financially disadvantaged (eligible for Pell grants or equivalent)
- Disability recognized by the ODU Office of Educational Accessibility
- Funding for the M-MARC U*STAR program at ODU is provided by the National Institutes of Health.

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