

EXCERPTS OF COMMENTS FOR IMPROVEMENT FROM MENTORS ABOUT
THE SUMMER PROGRAM (13 of 19 mentors responded)

- I think the 8 week period is reasonable and allows all of the students to be here at about the same time.
- The length of time I think depends on the project, but I think that 8 weeks is long enough for the students to get experience and still have some time off during the summer.
- A longer program than 8 weeks may not be practical for the students although desirable for the mentors.
- I think it would be better if the summer program ran longer. Maybe the formal program could end at 8 weeks with some people having negotiated longer contracts prior to the beginning of the summer.
- I think it would benefit from being 9 or 10 weeks long.
- I think a week or two more would provide a better experience with more goals accomplished.
- Have it last longer than 8 weeks.
- Perhaps you could offer the option of an additional 2 or more weeks.
- I think it would be better to have a longer time for a student to learn and finish a project in the future.
- If the students will be expected to present posters in the future, the summer program should be longer (10 weeks?).
- I think expanding the time from 8 to 10 weeks would be nice.
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- It would be good if the seminars for the students would be on the same day each week
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- It would be nice to get the students together perhaps at the 4 week mark for an informal luncheon to chat and discuss the program.
- There should be an informal meeting about half way through the summer so people could say what they have been up to, where they are, what they still need to do and what problems they are running into.

- Some mentors at Marshall wanted more supply money.

- The supply money should be in place at least a month prior to BRIN people arriving so supplies/reagents can be on-hand when they arrive.

- I think we should consider the long term need for a statewide summer REU program (post BRIN).

- Improve communication about the goals of the advisee/mentor relationship. For some BRIN faculty, it might be best to carve a specific goal/aim out of a research program with the intention of the faculty learning how to work on the aim in the summer, then continue working on the aim largely at their institution after the summer ends.

- Have two students work in the same lab to help each other.
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- Make sure that there is a good fit between the student and mentor and that the student understands beforehand what the project is.
- Because attendance is required, mentors and particularly the students should be reimbursed at current mileage for travel to and from the symposium.