

High Impact Educational Practice

Student Coaches (funded through the QEP)

What are HIP student coaches?

High Impact Practices (HIP) student coaches are faculty-recruited undergraduate or graduate students who collaborate with faculty to mentor *undergraduate students* in course-integrated high impact practices as described in our Collective Impact Plan for UCF as well as in our QEP (Quality Enhancement Program). Curricular high impact practices (HIP) for undergraduates include integrating research, service-learning, study abroad, and community engagement into courses.

How do HIP student coaches differ from students assisting you as a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant?

HIP student coaches are *student-focused* and should be used to facilitate HIP in your courses. HIP coaches should not assist in faculty-based research, even if the research is on educational practices. HIP coaches are peer mentors to students in your HIP-focused class; they are not GTAs or GRAs and are not responsible for grading, evaluating students, or helping prepare students for exams.

Examples of HIP Student Coaches:

- Dr. Linda Walters had 3 coaches in her Principles of Marine Biology class with 65 students. Each coach was responsible for leading a group research project on invasive species in the aquarium hobby industry. These projects were represented at the SURE Undergraduate Research Conference.
- Dr. Mary Tripp used 2 coaches to assist her first year Composition students in researching writing practices in local communities and writing research papers for submission to *Stylus: A Journal of First-Year Writing*. Coaches benefitted by learning about research in the field of writing and rhetoric, and they gained experience working with first-year students in preparation for their teaching assignments the next year.
- Dr. Michael Rovito used 3 coaches in his Applied Health Research Methods course. The coaches held open mentoring hours each week and hosted a series of roundtable discussions with the students independent from class time. Student groups prepared a research proposal and corresponding poster that were presented at the *Health Sciences Research Symposium*.
- Dr. Martha García worked with 3 coaches to enhance the research component and the preparation of the final term paper using the Modern Language Association style in her upper division Spanish Literature course. Students prepared a *term paper* based on the student's *research question* and the student's *bibliography*.

How does a student become a HIP coach?

Faculty identify and mentor their own HIP coaches. Coaches may be undergraduate students who have previously taken a course with the professor, members of a research program, or graduate students with specific skill sets such as statistical analysis, writing in a specific discipline, or information fluency. Selected faculty are responsible for getting all student information to the Office of Undergraduate Research by the stated deadline of December 15, 2018.

The most common problem we have found with HIP coaches is availability. When faculty are selecting coaches, it is important that the coaches be available at times when they are needed. If you want your coach to attend your HIP course on certain dates, please ensure the coach is not already in another scheduled course at this time before selecting them.

What requirements and benefits are there for the HIP coaches?

Coaches will attend a 4-hour training session in January and collaborate directly with their faculty mentor for approximately 30 hours during the semester. For this effort, each coach receives a \$300 scholarship. Coaches learn concepts and practices within their own discipline by engaging/participating in mentorship of undergraduate HIP projects alongside faculty and other students. Additionally, coaches serve as role models for peers and learn to communicate effectively with others.

Is there training for faculty and HIP student coaches?

Yes, there is training required for both faculty and coaches. Faculty will need to attend one hour of training in December 2018 (Thursday, December 6 from 12:30 to 1:30 PM or Friday, December 7 from 10 to 11 AM; Location: TBA). All selected HIP student coaches will have a required 4-hour meeting on the Friday afternoon from 1 to 5 PM before Spring semester classes start (January 4, 2019) to learn mentoring strategies and to create connections with other HIP coaches at UCF.

How many HIP students can a faculty member request?

Our model suggests a ratio of 1:15 to 1:20 coaches to undergraduate students, depending on the learning objectives and scope of the HIP project. For instance, a class of 60 students might have 3 or 4 research coaches. A class of 20 students would have 1 coach. During the semester, coaches may participate in mentoring with other coaches, or if the class is small, coaches may collaborate individually with a faculty member to facilitate HIP in a single course.

Application Process?

We will accept applications from faculty through 11:59 PM on November 1, 2018 for the spring 2019 semester. We were only able to fund about 50% of faculty applicants for spring 2018, so please ensure your application is complete and accurately explains your planned HIP efforts and how HIP coaches will enable you to accomplish these plans. Preference will be given to faculty with designated HIP courses (Research Intensive, Service-Learning, Integrative Learning, Study Abroad). However, any faculty interested in testing HIP practices in their

course is also most welcome to apply. Having an HIP coach(es) and testing HIP practices in a new or existing course may be a gateway to deciding to request HIP designation for your course in the future. Faculty applicants will be notified before Thanksgiving and then must recruit their HIP student coaches by December 15, 2018 to be ready for the spring 2019 semester. The faculty application is available through this link on Qualtrics:

http://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3QtuPzl18u1aVKJ

Faculty Expectations and Deliverables?

As mentioned above, all faculty must participate in a 1-hr training session in December (Thursday, December 6 from 12:30 to 1:30 PM or Friday, December 7 from 10 - 11 AM; Location: TBA). Next, you must recruit your HIP coach(es) and ensure they submit their paperwork to Office of Undergraduate Research by the December 15, 2018 deadline. Faculty must administer a short Qualtrics assessment on HIP coach success that we will provide at the end of the spring 2019 semester. For UCF to consider institutionalizing HIP coaches, this data is essential and we will need your assistance in encouraging your students to submit the assessment survey. We are especially interested in how HIP coaches impact transfer students, students from underrepresented populations, and students in large classes.

We will check in with all faculty participants via email at the midpoint of the spring semester to make sure everything is on track. At the end of the semester, the faculty member needs to provide tangible examples of the undergraduate student projects that the HIP student coaches facilitated (e.g. poster from SURE or Service-Learning Showcase; digital curation project; writing submission to journal, etc.). There will also be a final faculty wrap-up session on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 from noon – 1 PM, Location: TBA.

Questions?

Please contact Kim Schneider (KRS@ucf.edu) in the Office or Linda Walters (linda.walters@ucf.edu) in the Department of Biology.

Application: http://ucf.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3QtuPzl18u1aVKJ