

IPAC Guidelines

Interdisciplinary Research Apprenticeship Program

Rationale for the Interdisciplinary Research Apprenticeship Program

Occasionally faculty associated with IPAC (IPAC Fellows, IPAC Advisory Board members, IPAC Administrators, sponsors of programs and activities that are currently in the IPAC Mix) may wish to work with students on particular interdisciplinary research projects. Faculty/student collaboration of this nature will not only facilitate the faculty member's work, but it will also provide the student with an opportunity to engage in authentic *interdisciplinary* research under the guidance of an experienced researcher. Finally, encouraging research activity within the realm of IPAC will strengthen the Center.

Constraints on Interdisciplinary Research Apprentices

The IPAC Interdisciplinary Research Apprenticeship program is designed for students. These may be graduate students or undergraduate students. An IPAC Interdisciplinary Research Apprentice must have an institutionally recognized relationship with SUNY Oswego. Students do not apply for this program. Consequently, there will be no pool of applicants for the program. Rather, they are recruited by an IPAC affiliated faculty member for the program. Finally, written IPAC Director approval is required in order for a student to be awarded an IPAC Interdisciplinary Research Apprenticeship. The duration of an Interdisciplinary Research Apprenticeship will be explicitly specified in terms of a start date and an end date.

Benefits for Interdisciplinary Research Apprentices

- The IRA will gain insights into the nature of interdisciplinarity.
- The IRA will have an opportunity to observe, enact, and reflect upon processes associated with scholarly research.
- The IRA will establish a close working relationship with an experienced researcher, the faculty mentor.
- Provided the faculty mentor is present in the IPAC space, the apprentice may make use of the shared IPAC student room, so long as it is not in use for programs or activities that take precedence over the IPAC Interdisciplinary Research Apprenticeship Program.
- The IRA will be able to legitimately lay claim to being affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Programs and Activities Center at SUNY Oswego – and the accompanying title of **IPAC Interdisciplinary Research Apprentice**

Responsibilities of Faculty Mentors

The faculty mentor will be responsible for ...

- Crafting a one page document describing the research project which will be the focal point of the student's apprenticeship.
- Securing a resume of the student who they will be recommending for the apprenticeship.
- Providing the IPAC Secretary with PDF documents associated with the two preceding items.
- In consultation with the IPAC Secretary, securing written approval from the IPAC Director for the student to be awarded an IPAC Interdisciplinary Research Apprenticeship position.
- Assuring a sound and rewarding apprenticeship for the apprentice.
- Writing a brief post-apprenticeship document consisting of an account of the apprentice's work and development in terms of contributions to the research project and research skills honed throughout the apprenticeship. Providing this document in PDF form to the IPAC Secretary.
- Monitoring the interdisciplinary research apprentice whenever the apprentice is in the IPAC space.