

SEEDS-CCB Mentorship Program Plan

Goal

Many incoming UCR undergraduate students are not exposed to the diversity of disciplines in biology and are unsure about how to find research opportunities. The objective of this program is to introduce undergraduate students to **research areas, lab/field methods, and the graduate student experience** in ecology, evolutionary biology, and conservation biology fields (EECB) through mentoring by graduate students. The goal of this program is *not* to have mentees develop independent research projects with their mentors. Rather, this program will serve as an introduction to the diverse research experiences possible at UCR in EECB fields. The SEEDS-CCB Mentorship Program is a collaboration between the UC Riverside SEEDS club and the Center for Conservation Biology graduate student club.

Leadership - Organizing Committee

- Two CCB-appointed Graduate Student Leaders
- Two SEEDS-appointed Undergraduate Student Leaders
- The committee will meet at least monthly (three times per quarter) to discuss program updates

What the Organizing committee will do

- Develop a list of graduate student and faculty mentors
- Facilitate rotations
- Locate mentees, advertise the program to diverse audiences
 - the focal audience is freshman or sophomore undergrads potentially interested in graduate school and/or a career in EECB fields
- Assist undergrads in procuring field gear (if necessary)

What mentors will do

- Facilitate meetings with mentee
- Provide exposure to lab/field work within existing research projects and/or exposure to important scientific literature
- Provide advice on beginning undergraduate research, choosing an EECB career, and navigating the world of science
- Assist mentees in procuring research credits for their work in the lab

What mentees will do

- Work with mentor for one quarter in a UC Riverside research lab (the level of time commitment will be decided with the mentor)
- Generally, learn about the host lab's research program and methods at the discretion of mentors

Desired outcomes

- After the mentorship program, mentees will seek out research experience in the mentor's lab or in other labs
- Mentees will be exposed to one or more research areas in EECB
- Mentors will gain experience mentoring undergrads and will potentially be awarded a mentorship certificate from CCB