

**2021 CaRES Evaluations Completed by Student Interns
Summary by Dr. Allison Litton, Edited by Dr. John Waterbor
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N= 29, 88% response rate

Current degree in progress	N
MD or DO	23
MPH/ MSPH	4
PharmD	2

How many CaRES internships have you completed prior to this summer?

Only 1 student had previously been a CaRES intern.

Experience with the CaRES website	Mean
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Very Helpful=3, Somewhat Helpful=2, Not Helpful=1, Not Accessed= 0

Apply to CaRES	2.72
Orientation	2.52
Current Interns	2.07

How did you hear about the CaRES program?	N
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Presentation by CaRES faculty	9
Email, brochure, flyer	8
Conversation with a former CaRES student	4
UAB faculty invitation	2
Internet search	2
Faculty at another university	4

Please rate how well your preceptor does the following

Excellent=5, Good=4, Neutral=3, Fair=2, Poor=1

Oriented you and gave assistance you needed during the internship	4.66
Showed interest in your development as a research investigator	4.62
Was available to supervise, assist and advise you	4.72

Please rate how well CaRES administrators and staff...

Excellent=5, Good=4, Neutral=3, Fair=2, Poor=1

Explained how the CaRES program works	4.59
Responded to your questions and concerns	4.52
Clearly outlined expectations	4.62

Please tell us how the CaRES program helped you...

Excellent=5, Good=4, Neutral=3, Fair=2, Poor=1

Build knowledge in your project's research area	4.59
Build overall knowledge of scientific methods and the research process	4.62

Please tell us your overall assessment of the CaRES program

Excellent=5, Good=4, Neutral=3, Fair=2, Poor=1

4.66

Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements

Strongly agree=5, Agree=4, Neutral=3, Disagree=2, Strongly disagree=1

Based on your education, experience, and skills, you matched well with your project	4.62
You had a positive research relationship with your preceptor	4.55
You preceptor should be approved again to oversee a CaRES intern	4.62
Your stipend was adequate	4.69
Your hours were flexible	4.55
Your internship was an effective way to obtain a short training experience	4.55
The CaRES poster session allowed you to communicate your preliminary results	4.59
You became acquainted with investigators with whom you could collaborate on future research	4.34

The CaRES program helped me to _____ my career plans when it comes to cancer research.

Refine	12
Identify	8
Solidify	7
Eliminate options	2
Decided to change	0

How much did the CaRES program enhance your knowledge or skills in these areas?

Greatly enhanced=3, Moderately enhanced=2, Somewhat enhanced=1, Did not enhance=0

Your general writing skills	1.34
Your scientific writing skills	1.65
Your ability to perform laboratory procedures	1.51
Your knowledge of research design	1.96
Your data analysis skills	1.03
Your knowledge about conducting research in an academic setting	2.24
Your knowledge about acquiring grants and funding research	1.72

Dissemination of your CaRES research results	N
Draft and submit a manuscript for publication?	10
Make an oral or poster presentation at a scientific meeting?	14
None	5

Please read and reflect on the goals that you and your preceptor set in the mentoring contract. In general, were most of your goals met?

Goals Met	20
Mostly met but not completely	8
Not met	1

What are your career plans?

Conduct research, full time	1
Conduct research, part time	15
Practice my discipline	12
N.A.	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR SUMMER 2021:

Please describe any difficulties you experienced using Zoom for seminars or the virtual poster session.

- Unable to connect and network with other students.
- I had difficulty with Wi-Fi one day and was unable to attend a seminar because of it but overall, it worked out well.
- I wish we had access to all other posters so we could zoom in and evaluate more on our own device.
- My internet went out in the middle of my poster presentation, and I had to restart my computer and rejoin. I would also occasionally miss what some presenters were saying due to spotty connection.
- I was kicked off a couple times during seminars, but I don't think that is anyone's fault. Since we've been using zoom for a while now in school it wasn't much of a transition to make.
- None, everything went smoothly. I forgot the staff's name who ran zoom (my humblest apologies), but she was so professional and ran everything well. I've seen many zoom/technological difficulties in my own school, and she handled it like an expert with no issues!!!
- It was difficult presenting over zoom and ensuring my point came across in the virtual format.
- I wish more students would have had their camera on!
- Utilizing Zoom as we did this past summer 2021 was invaluable because I was able to spend more time hands-on in lab or with my software/equipment. I think that even if there are absolutely no restrictions next summer, Zoom should be employed again.

Please provide any additional comments you would like to share.

- I enjoyed the opportunity; thanks to those who made it possible.
- It was unfortunately not the best experience for me, but the CaRES program is really great and I'm glad it's an option for med students.
- I REALLY enjoyed this program, and it was much more rewarding and enjoyable than my previous research. Everyone was welcoming and courteous. They were always willing to help.
- My preceptor did an amazing job, and I am looking forward to working with her in the future. Thanks for a great summer!
- The CaRES Summer 2021 Internship was a wonderful experience for me, thank you very much to everyone.
- This was a great experience overall. I wish we all could have met in person because I would have loved the opportunity to network and meet new people.
- I loved CaRES for the experience and lessons it gave as well as the professional relationships created.

Summary: The 2021 CaRES students scored their overall internship experience 4.66 on a 5-point scale. They stated that they learned a lot about doing research in an academic environment. Students rated CaRES preceptors and administrative staff very highly. The virtual seminars and poster session went well, with students learning to navigate on zoom to make effective presentations. Our matching process of students to appropriate research projects was successful. The scores for questions about enhancing knowledge and skills are in keeping with scores in previous years and should be viewed from the perspective of our student-project self-matching process. Preceptors choose students who have the skills (e.g., scientific writing, literature reviews, data analysis) needed to complete their research project. Preceptors in need of analytic assistance choose students adept at statistical analyses, students whose analytic expertise may not grow during CaRES. The overall CaRES research experience, including responsibilities, hours, and pay, were rated very good to excellent. Interns stated that the goals listed in their mentoring contracts were met. Most interns contributed to a manuscript or presented their research at a scientific meeting. The CaRES experience helped interns refine, identify, or solidify their career plans, with over half planning careers that include research. The interns were appreciative of the opportunity to do research in an academic environment and were pleased with their accomplishments, overcoming stresses caused by the virtual format. CaRES 2021 was a great success. –Dr. John Waterbor

THE END