

College of Arts, Sciences, and Business

First Year Research Experience (FYRE): 2017-18

Overview: Faculty from the College of Arts, Sciences, and Business are invited to participate in the First Year Research Experience (FYRE) program. FYRE pairs faculty mentors with first year students (either first-time freshmen or transfer students new to your department) in apprentice-style research partnerships. The goal of FYRE is to teach motivated first-year students how to execute solid research processes and methods, and there is no expectation that a comprehensive research project will be completed in a single semester. Ideally, FYRE students are inspired to go on to conduct more advanced research, including OURE projects. And, of course, FYRE mentors and students may choose to continue their working relationship beyond the term of the FYRE program, if they wish.

Eligibility: All full-time ranked faculty (both T/T and NTT) are eligible to participate in FYRE.

Application Process: Interested faculty should identify a component of a research project that (1) would be appropriate for a first-year student with little research experience; and (2) would yield enough significant outcomes at the conclusion of a one-semester experience to be satisfying to an apprentice researcher (ex. researching and writing one (or more) section(s) of a longer article or chapter; conducting one (or more) set(s) of experiments; developing one (or a part of one) significant survey tool; performing one (or more) data collection process(es); etc.). Faculty should fill out and submit the application form (available on the CASB website) to casb@mst.edu by **October 2, 2017**. Faculty selected for participation in the FYRE program will be notified by October 9, 2017.

Selection Process: Eligible students must major in a CASB discipline. Students will be identified through departmental introductory courses and the Registrar's lists of new students, and faculty may encourage promising first-year students to apply. First-year students from across CASB will be invited to an information fair hosted by FYRE faculty mentors and previous FYRE students; details about this event, which will take place in mid-October, will be forthcoming. Interested students will review the submitted project descriptions, attend the information fair, and submit their applications to the FYRE program by November 3, 2017. Students who do not attend the information fair will be encouraged to contact faculty mentors directly, to express their interest in working with them and to learn more about their research projects. Selection decisions will be made by a committee assembled by CASB, and in consultation with faculty mentors, no later than November 10, 2017. A maximum of twenty pairs of mentors and students will be chosen for the 2017-18 cycle. Work on FYRE projects will officially begin in January and continue until the end of the semester, although faculty mentors will have the option to suggest some background reading to their students before January. FYRE students will be strongly encouraged to participate in the Undergraduate Research Conference held on campus in early April, and will be required to participate in the FYRE Research Showcase in early May.

Expectations and Compensation: CASB will host a welcome meeting in January and a farewell meeting in May for all FYRE students and faculty mentors. Faculty mentors are required to have regular contact with the student (at least weekly) and set regular milestones for the student to complete (at least bi-weekly).

Faculty mentors who are matched with a FYRE student will receive \$500 in professional development funds. Each FYRE student will receive a \$500 stipend, to be paid upon satisfactory completion of the student's responsibilities at the end of the semester.

Please direct any questions to Kate Drowne at kdrowne@mst.edu.