Undergraduate Research Assistants (URA) Program Evaluation

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Question 1: Has the URA experience influenced your future advanced study plans?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Question 2: Will you continue with graduate school?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Have not decided

Question 3: Did you participate in any Center activities?
☐ Annual Meeting ☐ Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Symposium
☐ Student Leadership Council (SLC) activities ☐ New Student Orientation ☐ Site Review
☐ Other

Question 4: Did you interact/collaborate with other Center projects?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Question 5: How did the research experience compare with your expectations?

Overall, the experience met my expectations. The benefits of the experience were in direct proportion to the effort expended through work. I was looking for an introduction to the research process and some exposure to the type of work performed at my school. I think I was able to experience both of these. If I have a regret, it is that I did not put forth a more sustained effort, rather I worked in concentrated but sporadic increments. A more consistent effort would have resulted in a more rewarding experience for me and a may have yielded more extensive results for the project on which I worked.
Question 6: What did you accomplish?

The specific task I performed was a comparison of the run times of the modal analyses of both a simplified and complex model of a multi-span simply supported highway bridge. This involved taking an existing model that accounted for the different components and characteristics of the bridge in a comprehensive manner and simplifying the model so that it used far fewer components while still accurately representing the behavior of the bridge. These models were then analyzed using a structural modeling program and timed to determine the time saving advantage of using the simplified model. It was determined that the simplified model did yield a significant time saving. This result probably merits further investigation using differing degrees of complexity within the simplified model.

From a personal standpoint, this experience has increased my desire to go on to graduate school and continue doing research work.