

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS THEORETICAL RESEARCH?

It's sort of like the reverse of what you do in a lab course. Instead of being given a protocol and told what the end goal is, then carrying out the methods, you plan the study, set a goal, and come up with a hypothesis and prediction. Though you may not carry out this procedure now, it can be an excellent way to develop a project idea for a question you're truly curious about.

## WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT FOR REX?

It varies according to which mentor you get, but REX recommends having one meeting per week, or at the least one every two weeks. You should set up a defined meeting time with your group early on. Note that the time you need to put into your project may vary throughout the year (likely increasing in January/February as MURC approaches).

## WHAT IS THE FINAL GOAL OF THE REX PROGRAM?

Typically, students present their work at MURC, in the form of either a poster or oral presentation, though poster presentations are more common. Every group will be required to write an abstract if they want to present at MURC. A full paper is not expected, unless you would like to write it up. You may also want to write a research project proposal with the guidance of your mentor.

## DO I GET TO WORK IN MY MENTOR'S LAB/RESEARCH CENTRE?

Not necessarily; REX does not guarantee "wet lab" work. Some mentors may be inclined to hire mentees as research assistants if you show good work ethic and get along well.

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM MY MENTOR?

You can expect your mentor to guide you through your project; they are there for you to ask questions of them! Remember that they don't necessarily know the level of guidance you need (every mentee is different), so if you don't know something, make it clear and ask for help. Use your best judgment when thinking of how many questions to ask. It's important to communicate and you shouldn't feel shy asking a question over email, but it's often easiest to ask questions when you meet with your group so that all your group members benefit from your mentor's explanation.

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## WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM THE REX COMMITTEE?

The REX Committee is here to facilitate the matching process and provide guidance to mentors and mentees. We host workshops to help students develop basic research skills, but we are *not* involved in any particular project and we do not facilitate group meetings. Although the REX Committee sets out suggested deadlines throughout the year, groups are expected to develop their projects according to their own timeline or system. Feel free to ask questions by sending us an email. If we don't know the answer, we'll try to send you to someone who does.

## ARE MURC AND REX THE SAME THING?

No. MURC just happens to be the conference that most REX mentees present at. The REX Committee is NOT directly involved in MURC planning and we probably don't have answers about the conference. Those questions should be directed towards the MURC planning committee.