

The Howard County Gifted and Talented Mentorship Program

Glenelg High School

The Howard County Gifted and Talented Intern/Mentor program emulates a college level research program. Participants design and develop an original research study in a self-selected area of interest that aligns with or expands upon their on-site experiences with a professional mentor. Students learn:

- Advanced-level research methodologies
- College-level writing skills and oral presentation skills
- Data collection principles, methods, and procedures.

Selection for the Intern/Mentor Program includes a rigorous application process: Students must demonstrate achievement in elevated coursework, obtain outstanding teacher recommendations, and participate in a comprehensive interview.

The Intern/Mentor program has two main components:

The On-Site Experience:

At the placement site, interns contribute to the professional work of their mentors. Interns aim to log 145 hours on-site from September to May to receive one credit for the course. The schedule is customized to the mentor's and student's weekly and seasonal availability.

Students maintain journals of their experiences and a log of their hours in a portfolio, which also houses all aspects of their research process. For each quarter, the mentor submits a grade sheet for the student.

The Research-Based Investigation:

In addition to research conducted through the student's coursework, the mentor exposes the student to current research within the professional community through industry journals, discussions, online collaboration, etc. The intern generates a research question, forms a hypothesis, and proves the thesis with a literature review and original investigation.

The outcome of the research culminates in a synthesis paper, due in March. The mentor guides and evaluates the accuracy and validity of the content, while the Research Teacher evaluates the writing, research, citations, and format. The results of the research, which reflect the current expert thinking on the topic coupled with original data collection and interpretation, are communicated to a particular audience via a research paper, an oral presentation, and a product.

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