

Information Regarding Your RSP Summary Paper

The minimum length of your summary paper should be 2 pages but can be more as you see fit.

Your paper will be read by your PPM mentors and in many, but not all, cases by your sponsor.

Your RSP paper and project are one component in decisions relating to Dean's Recognition.

The main goal of your summary paper is to write it as a reflective essay on how it did or did not contribute to your professional development. For those of you doing research, whether bench or clinical, you can describe the goal or objectives of the research briefly, but the details of the research are not the important element in your summary paper. It is also not a factor if your research ended up being a success or not. The specifics of the research are not what should be emphasized in this paper. Rather, the paper should address issues such as:

- What challenges did you face, both expected and unexpected?
- How did you confront problems as they arose?
- How did you function in your project, independently or as part of a team?
- What lessons did you learn about working either way, i.e., either independently or as part of a team?
- Did you receive enough supervision throughout the project?
- Did you encounter problems in obtaining supervision or interacting with others during your project? In some instances students become dissatisfied with their sponsor for various reasons. If this applies to you then obviously you will not want to make critical statements about your sponsor and then have that person read the paper. When you submit your paper to the Curriculum Office simply state **who should not read the paper**. The Curriculum Office will honor your statement regarding who should and who should not be given your paper to read.
- Did you enjoy your project or was it a disappointment? If it was enjoyable – why? If it was not enjoyable – why? Please be aware that your PPM mentors will read your papers to understand the depth and quality of your self-reflection on doing the project, not on whether you felt it was enjoyable. Enjoyment is not a measure of the success of your project, although we of course that most of you did enjoy and benefit from doing your RSP. Likewise, authoring or co-authoring a paper is not a measure of success, although many of you will achieve that goal.
- Since each of you one day will be physicians and project sponsors yourselves, what lessons did you learn about being a sponsor to a student?
- Were there issues of cultural competence or ethics that arose in your RSP?

My bullet points are not intended to be an absolute standard or check list, but rather to help guide you in how you approach your final summary paper. If still in doubt, please contact me with any additional questions.

Dr. Schechter