

San Diego State University
Mathematics Research Experience for Undergraduates 2017
Program Survey Summary

Participants were asked to anonymously answer ten survey questions evaluating the program. The question response rate was 99.2%. Each question was answered on a six-point scale. The overall average was 5.32, Good/Excellent.

1=Terrible 2=Bad 3=Neutral 4=Positive 5=Good 6=Excellent

Ave.	Question
5.54	Please evaluate the REU program as a whole.
5.54	Please evaluate your Project Team.
5.54	Please evaluate the opening week.
5.46	Please evaluate the overall organization of the REU program.
5.31	Please evaluate the social/recreational environment.
5.31	Please evaluate your specific research topic.
5.23	Please evaluate the outcome of your research.
5.23	Please evaluate the expected impact of the REU program on your career and life.
5.15	Please evaluate the SDSU campus facilities you used.
4.92	Please evaluate your Project Director.

Here are some quotes from these anonymous surveys.

- It was really cool & made me decide to become an applied mathematician.
- Talks were great.
- It changed my goals for the future.
- [The REU was] well-organized and fun.
- My best summer so far.
- I am extremely proud of the results we found.
- I really enjoyed my time this summer.
- I would absolutely recommend this program to younger math majors.
- I learned a good amount about graduate school and academic culture.
- My team got along so well from the first day together.
- The gym is great and there are plenty of lunch spots to choose from.

Participants were also asked to answer seven questions about attitudes toward the mathematical sciences. They were surveyed both at the beginning of the program and at its conclusion. All survey pairs were received, with a question response rate of 98.9%. Each question was on a six-point scale.

1=Strongly Disagree 2=Moderately Disagree 3=Disagree Slightly
 4=Agree Slightly 5=Moderately Agree 6=Strongly Agree

Change in Attitude	Question
1.15	I understand the nature of research in mathematics.
0.77	I understand the nature of graduate study in mathematics.
0.31	I write technical material in mathematics well.
-0.08	I enjoy doing mathematics.
-0.15	I want research in mathematics to be part of my career.
-0.25	I plan to pursue (further) graduate study in mathematics.
-0.31	I enjoy discussing mathematics with others.

Note the dramatic attitude increases in several questions. The questions with small decreases were generally split – most students increased their desire for mathematics research and graduate school, while several had dramatic decreases in these desires. We consider these outcomes excellent. It is better for students to make good choices about their future, whether or not those futures include research in mathematics, based on their experiences in our program.