WiSE-STARS: Women in Science and Engineering – Scholar Training through Apprenticeships and Research in Science

WiSE-STARS is the social and academic community of undergraduate women students pursuing science, technology, engineering and math majors at Cal. Through WiSE-STARS, students have access to academic support, professional development and networking experiences, and mentored research opportunities that help them identify and follow their unique pathways to graduate school and/or professional careers.

WiSE-STARS Program Components

Students may participate in WiSE-STARS events and activities at any point in their studies at Cal. The basic trajectory includes the following program components:

1. Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) Freshman Seminar (MCB 98)
   
   This seminar is an exploration of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields and experiences at Cal. Students taking this seminar build academic and social community with their peers, acquire skills and knowledge that will help them be successful at Cal, gain insight into careers in STEM fields, are introduced to concepts of social justice and inclusion, develop leadership skills, and meet and form social networks with women scientists, engineers, faculty members and graduate students in their fields of interest. One section of the seminar is restricted to residents of the WiSE Theme Program (a community in the residence halls); as of Fall 2011 another section has been added to accommodate students not living in the WiSE Theme Program.

2. Professional Development and Research Preparation Workshops

   Each semester, in collaboration with the Cal NERDS program and the Gender Equity Resource Center, WiSE-STARS offers a series of lunchtime and evening workshops (aimed at Sophomores but open to all WiSE/NERDS students) intended to prepare students for upper-division research as well as professional development and career exploration in sciences, technology, engineering and math fields. Past topics have included: Research Posters Do’s & Don’ts; Preparing for Graduate School; Sexual Harassment: What It Is and What to Do If It Happens; The Process of Becoming a Great Scientist; as well as field trips to various labs and industries.

3. Summer Research Opportunity

   Each summer, ten students are selected to participate in faculty-directed research. Students selected receive a $3,000 stipend and work full-time for 8 weeks under the guidance of a faculty member with whom they are carefully matched. The summer program provides a critical introduction to research experience for both career development and also matriculation to advanced degree programs.

4. Academic Support

   All WiSE-STARS students are invited to take advantage of academic support services made available especially for them. These include enrollment in Intensive Discussion Sections for required lower-division Math classes as well as 1:1 and small-group tutoring in chemistry, math and physics.

Sponsored by:

Office of Student Development
Division of Student Affairs

Cal NERDS (PDP)
Division of Equity & Inclusion and Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Gender Equity Resource Center
Division of Equity & Inclusion

For more information about WiSE-STARS, please contact:

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