

Purpose:

The purpose of the Distinction in Research and Scholarship (DIRS) is to recognize PLFSOM students who have demonstrated exceptional engagement and proficiency in scholarship and research while in medical school.

This distinction goes beyond the curriculum Scholarly Activity and Research Program (SARP) requirements that expose students to the scholarship process but does not necessarily expect proficiency and engagement in all aspects of the scholarship/research process and published outcomes.

Eligibility Criteria for Distinction in Research and Scholarship award:

- Must have completed all requirements of the Scholarly Activity and Research Program (SARP).
- Must be in good academic and professionalism standing as determined by the Office of Student Affairs.

Application Guidelines:

When applying to DIRS, a student is required to select a primary project that best exemplifies their overall engagement, proficiency and achievements in scholarship/research. For the purpose of DIRS the primary project **can** be your SARP project or **any** project of your choosing, providing it was executed while in medical school. We ask the student to provide a detailed description of their involvement in each of the following aspects of their primary project:

- Development of the research/scholarly question or hypothesis
- Project design
- IRB application (if applicable)
- Data collection: analysis and interpretation
- Preparation of any manuscripts and presentations at local, regional or national meetings

Finally, students are encouraged to list and briefly summarize their participation and accomplishments for any additional projects other than their primary project. Such additional contributions and efforts will be considered by the committee and incorporated into the discussion before casting a final vote.

Note: All projects must be executed while in medical school.

Application Process:

- The application will consist of two components - 1) student application; and 2) mentor support form:

(1) Student must submit an application documenting the following:

- Full description of primary* project and listing of any additional projects with their associated scholarly productivity (e.g., peer reviewed publications, presentations at local, national or regional meetings).

***Note: Your primary project for DIRS does not have to be your SARP project.**

- Detailed description by student of personal involvement with the primary project for each of the following:
 - Development of research question or hypothesis
 - Project design
 - IRB application (if applicable)
 - Data collection: analysis, and interpretation
 - Preparation of manuscripts and presentations (oral and/or poster) at local, regional or national meetings
- Additional projects can be listed in Section 4 of the application.
- Letters of support from faculty or other researchers/scholars involved in the project (in addition to mentor's support form—see below).

Note: Letters of support should be emailed **DIRECTLY to carolyn.mack@ttuhsc.edu from the faculty, researchers or scholars involved in the project. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from DIRS consideration!**

(2) Mentor Support Form

- The project mentor(s) for each project, primary or other, must submit an overall evaluation of the student along with a description of the student's involvement in each of the following:
 - Development of research question or hypothesis
 - Project design
 - IRB application (if applicable)
 - Data collection, analysis, and interpretation
 - Preparation of manuscripts, presentations (oral and/or poster) at local, regional or national meetings

Note: Mentor Support Forms should be emailed **DIRECTLY to carolyn.mack@ttuhsc.edu from the mentor. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from DIRS consideration!**

DIRS Application Review Process:

- The completed DIRS application will be reviewed by a faculty committee convened by the SARP Program Directors consisting of 5 faculty members drawn from at least three different departments.
- Committee Members shall not be mentors of the DIRS applicants.
- Each review panel will include at least 1 MD and 1 PhD faculty member.
- SARP Co-Directors will convene the review panel and facilitate review and also serve as non-voting ex-officio members.

DIRS Awards

All DIRS applicants will be notified of their application status via email. DIRS awardees will also receive an official congratulatory letter signed by President Lange.