

National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families

Research Scholars Program FAQs

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1. What is expected of me as a Scholar in the Research Scholars Program?

The Scholar will:

- Contribute to one of the Center's current research projects within the early care and education, poverty reduction and self-sufficiency, and cross-cutting topic areas by conducting interviews, analyzing data, performing a literature review, or drafting sections of a product. The Scholar's specific activities will vary by project and will be discussed with their mentor.
- Meet with their mentor by phone or videoconference call to develop a work plan defining their project, project goals, and timeline. Scholars will share progress with the Center Steering Committee at the mid-point of their project period, as well as a final report at the end that summarizes their experience and documents the completion of any specific reports, briefs, or other products proposed in the work plan.
- Contribute to other capacity-building and/or research products or activities that are part of the Center's work plan, as appropriate. For example, Scholars will be able to contribute to the development of webinars, interactive data tools, Hispanic Family Facts, data training events, etc.
- Participate by phone in biweekly Center Steering Committee meetings. Meetings occur every other Monday from 12:30-2:00 PM ET.
- Be encouraged to submit their work to one or more professional conferences, such as the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Child Care and Early Education Policy Research Consortium (CCEEPRC), Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD), National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC), Population Association of America (PAA), National Council on Family Relations (NCFR), or Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency (RECS).
- Be invited to participate in webinars and work with Center staff on a range of other Center-related projects, including research projects, publications, and social media outreach.

2. What do I gain from participating in the Research Scholars Program?

- Scholars will be matched with and mentored by one of the Center's investigators. This mentor will work with the Scholar to identify the scope of the work to be completed by the Scholar during the Program. The mentor and Scholar will meet weekly by phone or videoconference call to discuss tasks and progress toward accomplishing project goals.
- The Scholar will join the Center's biweekly Steering Committee calls. During these calls, investigators from the priority areas share progress on their ongoing and forthcoming studies. Participating in these calls will allow scholars to:
 - learn about the research being conducted across the Center
 - experience how investigators across different institutions engage in productive and effective collaborations in an applied research setting
 - learn about the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) programmatic priorities and how cooperative agreements work
 - provide feedback on the design and development of studies in other program areas
 - receive feedback on their work from Steering Committee members

- The Center will actively connect the Scholar to other emerging scholars (including those from prior Program cohorts), researchers in the field, key organizations, and federal agencies that may be of interest to the Scholar's longer-term professional development.
- Scholars participate in professional development activities to help advance their careers and professional development goals (e.g., training in accessible writing).
- In addition, Scholars will receive support from other Center staff, as appropriate, to further support their overall professional development goals.

3. What outcomes or deliverables am I expected to complete by the end of the Research Scholars Program?

The Scholar is expected to significantly contribute to an existing Center project. This can be accomplished by conducting interviews, contributing to analyses, performing a literature review, or drafting sections of a product, as appropriate. We expect the Scholar's contributions to result in a co-authored publication (e.g., brief, report, journal article). However, due to time restrictions, it is possible that the project will not have been completed by the end of the Program.

4. Where is the Research Scholars Program located?

The Research Scholars Program is remote. The Scholar will have regular check-ins with their mentor and Center leadership via phone and videoconference calls.

5. Is the start date of the Research Scholars Program flexible?

The anticipated start date of the Program is **October 1, 2021**. However, we recognize that academic schedules vary considerably from one university to another. As such, the specific dates of the Program can be negotiated, as necessary, to match the Scholar's academic institutional schedule while still meeting the requirements of the Program.

6. I have other research projects and grants underway. Will it still be possible for me to continue work on them during the Research Scholars Program period?

The remote, part-time Research Scholars Program is expected to occur concurrently with other work. We estimate that the time commitment will be approximately one day a week.

7. Is prior experience in the Center's research priority areas required?

Prior experience in the Center's research priority areas is not necessary. However, we do expect applicants to have an interest in pursuing research focused on Hispanics around these areas. One of the goals of the program is to expand the pool of scholars pursuing research in the Center's research priority areas.

**8. Can you clarify the eligibility requirements for advanced graduate students?
Specifically, am I eligible if:**

- **I am already working on my dissertation?**
- **I will have completed all of my program's requirements by the time the Research Scholars Program starts?**
- **I finished my dissertation but have yet to complete my practicum?**

Yes. The ABD (All-But-Dissertation) status is a *minimum* eligibility requirement, and it is intended to indicate that while applicants should have completed their coursework and research requirements, we do not expect them to have written their dissertation. Applicants who are further along in their programs or about to finish their program requirements are eligible to apply.

9. Do I need to be a U.S. Citizen to apply for the Research Scholars Program?

The position does not have citizenship requirements. However, all Scholars must be authorized to work in the United States and will be asked to complete USCIS Form I-9 on their first day.

10. The Research Scholars Program is open to early career scholars (up to five years post Ph.D.). What is the current cutoff year for graduating from a Ph.D. program for Program eligibility?

All eligible early career scholar applicants must have graduated from their doctoral programs no earlier than 2016.

11. Do you accept students obtaining other doctoral degrees (e.g., Ed.D.) in addition to Ph.D. students?

Yes. Applicants should ensure that their personal statement and letters of recommendation speak to their research training.

12. My recommenders prefer to send their letter directly to the Center; is that possible?

Yes. If the individuals providing the letters of recommendation prefer to share these directly with the Center, they can email them to hispanicresearchscholars@childtrends.org. If this is the case, please add to your submission a page indicating that letters will be sent directly to us and provide the names and contact information of the individuals providing the letters. Please make sure that the letters are submitted by the deadline.

13. Am I allowed to work a full-time job in addition to the Research Scholars Program?

Yes. There is flexibility around *when* the research activities are completed during the week. However, it is the expectation that Scholars are able to join meetings with the Center's Steering Committee (biweekly), their mentor (weekly), and the Program coordinator (every other

month), as well as be able to join professional development opportunities (one hour each, around three times during the 12-month period).

14. I live outside the Washington, DC area. Will I need to move to participate in the Research Scholars Program?

The Program is remote, so there is no need to relocate. All meetings are virtual, and the Scholar's work is conducted from their home institution.

15. Can I propose original research instead of working on an existing project?

No. Scholars will work on an existing project within the Center rather than propose an independent project. Please note that the Center conducts research focused on Hispanic children and families in the United States. International research on Hispanic populations is outside of the Center's scope of work.

16. I am interested in the Research Scholars Program, but I have a conflict with the Steering Committee meetings. Can I still participate in the program?

Unfortunately, no. Steering Committee meetings offer scholars the opportunity to experience how a multi-site, collaborative research center is run, to engage with ACF staff, and to obtain feedback on Center work. For these reasons, Steering Committee meeting attendance is central to the Scholar's experience and thus required.

17. Whom do I contact if I have additional questions about the Research Scholars Program?

If you have any additional questions, please contact hispanicresearchscholars@childtrends.org and reference "Research Scholars Program" in the subject line.