Support for Faculty Sponsoring
Student Summer Research or Creative Projects

Participation of undergraduates in faculty research or creative projects is a valuable learning experience for students, and it may also benefit faculty scholarship. A valuable collaborative experience may also result from a student-initiated project. Nevertheless, supervision of summer students requires a substantial investment of faculty time, and the University recognizes such supervision as a contribution to teaching and departmental service. Faculty whose research can appropriately involve undergraduates are encouraged to sponsor summer students. Those who make a significant and ongoing commitment to sponsoring student summer research or creative projects may earn credit toward sabbatical. While both tenured and junior faculty members who have passed third year review may accrue such credit, only tenured members may redeem it.

I. SLA Credit

To recognize and reward tenured faculty who make a significant and ongoing commitment to sponsoring student summer research or creative projects, qualifying faculty may earn a maximum of 1 additional SLA credit over a 6 year period by either

1. Sponsoring summer students in 4 summers over a period no longer than 6 years, or
2. Sponsoring at least 5 students in at least 3 summers in a 6 year period.

Administrative Guidelines:

- Only research and creative collaborations that entail direct contact with matriculated Colgate students for a minimum of 8 summer weeks and average at least 15 hours per week are eligible. The collaboration must engage the student as a scholarly participant in the project, as opposed to simply supporting a faculty member’s work.

- Fractional SLA credits will not be awarded by this plan.

- Faculty who receive summer salary support in excess of 1/9 of their annual salary must sponsor at least 2 students in order for a summer to count as one of the 4 required summers under (1) or must sponsor at least 6 students over at least 3 summers under (2) to be eligible. Faculty members who are specifically compensated for supervision of student projects may not count those students.

- Faculty members must apply for the additional SLA credit through their Division Director, who is responsible for determining eligibility and keeping records of sponsorship.

II. The First Post-Tenure Sabbatical

Recently tenured faculty who satisfy the above criteria between third year review and the first post-tenure sabbatical are eligible for an additional course release toward the first post-tenure sabbatical. Recently tenured faculty who satisfy the criteria within any 6 year period after the third-year review are eligible for a SLA credit.

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