



**University of California, Irvine**  
**Biomedical Engineering and Social Science Training (BEST) Program**

***Responsibilities and Expectations for BEST Trainees***

***Objectives:*** The UC Irvine Biomedical Engineering and Social Science Training (BEST) Program is committed to educating and supporting participating trainees. To provide appropriate guidance to the BEST Trainees, it is important to properly articulate the following responsibilities and expectations. The purpose of this agreement is to define the responsibilities and expectations for the Trainee, as well as outline the commitments required to engage fully in the curriculum, activities, and mentorship provided.

***Instructions:*** Each trainee should review and agree to the following responsibilities and expectations. A signature on this document signifies this commitment to being a trainee in the UCI BEST Program.

**I. Programmatic Expectations**

**Bootcamp and Curriculum Engagement**

- Trainees are required to participate in a 5-week immersive summer bootcamp immediately following admission to the program. The bootcamp will cover foundational topics such as design thinking, universal design, social identity theory, social determinants of health, and the social ecology ecosystem.
- Trainees must be active participants in the bootcamp seminars, learning modules, and group activities.
- In Year 1, Trainees will complete two required courses:
  - One course in biomedical engineering, such as Engineered Inaccuracy in Cardiovascular Medical Devices or Biomedical Engineering Design: Addressing Unmet Cardiovascular Needs.
  - One course in social sciences, such as Health Policy and Management or Social Epidemiology. Trainees must engage fully in the coursework, participate in class discussions, and apply interdisciplinary approaches to problem-solving related to cardiovascular health.

**Hexad Teamwork and Year-Long Activities**

- Participate actively in interdisciplinary teams called Hexads (teams of six) that will meet weekly throughout training with one or two faculty advisors.
- Hexads will report their progress to the program faculty each quarter, as described below in the Communication and Reporting expectations section.
- Participate in assessments of group communication on a regular basis.

**Mentorship and Leadership Development**

- Trainees will mentor at least one undergraduate student annually, with guidance from their primary research advisor.
- Trainees will participate in mentor training, practice effective mentoring, and develop leadership skills in both academic and professional contexts.

**Cardiovascular Health Inequities Conference**

- Trainees will participate in the Cardiovascular Health Conference each year, presenting their research through oral or poster presentations.
- Trainees are expected to engage in the conference, participate in discussions, and use the event to expand their professional network.

## Community-Engaged Research

- Trainees will participate in a 10-week research rotation with a community health organization in Year 2.
- Trainees will be responsible for designing and executing a research plan that addresses cardiovascular health.
- Trainees will meet weekly with their Triad (primary research advisor and co-mentor) to discuss their progress, challenges, and data collection at least monthly.
- Trainees will practice interdisciplinary research techniques and build relationships with community members.

## II. Research Expectations

### Active Participation and Engagement

- Trainees must fully commit to the program, actively participating in the bootcamp, coursework, Hexad team meetings, research rotations, and mentorship activities.
- Trainees are expected to collaborate effectively within their Hexads and with other program participants.
- Trainees are expected to foster a spirit of teamwork, offer constructive feedback, and engage in group problem-solving to address interdisciplinary challenges in cardiovascular health.

### Professional Development

- Trainees are encouraged to attend relevant conferences, workshops, and seminars to broaden their knowledge and stay informed on the latest developments in both biomedical engineering and social sciences.
- Trainees must take initiative in their personal and professional development, actively seeking out leadership opportunities, such as mentoring undergraduates or participating in program-wide events.

### Communication and Reporting

- Trainees should maintain regular communication with their primary research advisor, co-mentor, and Hexad members, providing updates on progress and challenges.
- Trainees are expected to seek feedback and mentorship on their research, community engagement efforts, and professional development.
- Trainees must submit quarterly reports on their research and progress in Hexad activities. These reports will be shared with the program faculty for review and feedback.
- Trainees will work to disseminate research results in peer-reviewed journals and conferences, as appropriate.
- Trainees will participate in periodic interviews and surveys, responding promptly to scheduling requests from BEST staff.

### Professionalism and Ethical Conduct

- Trainees are expected to exhibit professional behavior in all interactions, respecting the backgrounds and perspectives of their peers, mentors, and community partners.
- Trainees must adhere to the highest ethical standards in their research, particularly during community-engaged research activities.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_