

Cohort 5 Expectations and Causes for Dismissal

Attendance and Participation:

- You are expected to participate in Parkland Science Scholars for the full length of the one-year program. This is important because the program is designed to grow with you as you advance through your academic journey at Parkland. In addition, the program includes a community of scholars who support each other throughout the program.
- You are expected to attend all Parkland Science Scholar Seminar and faculty-student mentor sessions. These are designed to support you as you grow as a scientist or engineer. The seminar helps create community and gives you training to be successful. The faculty mentor is your main contact for regular check-ins and for finding additional resources.
- You are encouraged to join a Parkland student club each semester of the program. This will help you gain more connections with the campus community and form different networks that can support your academic journey. We will help you connect with Parkland organizations and learn about the benefits gained from participation in these activities.
- It is your responsibility to contact your faculty mentor and the Parkland Science Scholars coordinator as soon as possible in cases of an emergency, sudden illness, or other excused absence. Because the program is designed to support scholars through a variety of experiences, it is important to communicate any issues that arise so we can provide important resources. *Unexcused absences will affect your ability to make progress.*
- You are expected to be an active mentee. Throughout the program, you will meet regularly with your faculty mentor. You will also have meetings with a graduate student mentor. In the program, you will be paired with a seasoned Science Scholar as your peer-mentor. Mentoring relationships require both the mentor and mentee to be actively engaged in the relationship. Timely communication and responsiveness are key expectations for this active engagement. Mentoring is a core component of Parkland Science Scholars. Because of that, discussions about mentoring, reflections on mentoring relationships, and training to become a peer mentor are integrated into the Parkland Science Scholars Seminar course.
- Parkland Science Scholars is designed to include a summer research experience. There are different forms that this can take, from a 10-wk full-time paid experience to a shorter part-time experience for course credit. These research experiences are extremely impactful for many reasons including, helping scholars refine their academic and career goals, building experimental skills, creating professional connections, and gaining confidence.

Behavior:

- While participating in program-related activities, regardless of whether it is on or off campus, you are expected to behave in a professional manner. It is important to maintain a positive attitude, to communicate with your mentors, fellow participants, and all other people respectfully, and to exercise time management (i.e., meet deadlines, work efficiently, etc.).
 - Your conduct during this program reflects on Parkland Science Scholars itself, and therefore you are expected to behave in a respectful manner. This entails adhering to the Parkland College student handbook (<https://www.parkland.edu/Audience/Current-Students/Student-Policies-Procedures>).

- All concerns/incidents should be discussed immediately with your faculty mentor and/or the Parkland Science Program coordinator for resolution purposes.
- As many activities provide opportunities to learn about and work with other people from other cultures, Parkland Science Scholar participants are expected to demonstrate cultural sensitivity and behave respectfully.

Academic Performance:

- Participants must stay in good academic standing throughout the program. Good academic standing is defined as not failing any classes and keeping a GPA at 2.5 or above.
- Participants who are close to losing their scholarship (due to a low GPA, attendance and participation issues, or due to behavior issues) will be informed by their faculty mentor and will work to get back in good standing. If issues continue, the probation processes will come into effect. The first semester of low academic performance, the student will be placed on probation, but will continue to receive the scholarship. If the issue continues for a second semester, the student can stay in the program, but the scholarship will not be disbursed until the student can maintain a GPA of 2.5 or above.
- Participants must continue to be enrolled as a full-time student Fall 2025, Spring 2026, and enrolled in IND 288 and do research Summer 2026. If the student falls below full-time status, the probation processes will come into effect. The first semester of below full-time status, the student will be placed on probation, but will continue to receive the scholarship. Special situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the administrative team.

Evaluations and Follow-up:

- During and after Parkland Science Scholars, you will be asked to complete surveys and to provide feedback. You are expected to complete these tasks honestly and completely.
- Parkland Science Scholars is funded through the NSF S-STEM program. As part of this funding, the NSF expects to receive information about participants over a substantial length of time. This helps the NSF demonstrate the importance of the S-STEM program and justify its continuation. This information will also help Parkland Science Scholars demonstrate to the NSF the efficacy of Parkland Science Scholars and the importance of future funding. You are expected to keep in contact with Parkland Science Scholars as you continue through your education and beyond. If you move, change email addresses, etc., you must contact Parkland Science Scholars with your new contact information. In addition, when inquiries are sent out to follow-up on your status, you are expected to answer these inquiries honestly and completely.

I understand that my signature below indicates that I have read and understood the above statements.

Participant Signature

Date

The signed original copy of this acknowledgement will be filed with the Parkland Science Scholars program.