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Project Abstract (150 words)

The Studio Lab for Undergraduate Research in the College of Arts & Sciences solicits applicatons from mentors (tenure track faculty, instructors, teaching faculty, and Ph.D. students nominated by their advisors) and from undergraduate students. We pair undergraduates with mentor-led projects and pay students to work with their mentor for about 5 hours a week during the semester. We are applying for funds to conduct a program evaluaton based on a randomized experiment in which we can track the progress of students who are admited to Studio Lab and those who apply but are not admited to Studio Lab. This will provide unique insight into whether and how programs like Studio Lab are advancing their goals in the areas of justce, diversity, equity, and inclusion, skill acquisiton, retenton, graduaton rates, and even job placement.

Project Summary

Along with my collaborator (Abigail Dym, University o   o   skill

inf uences students' academic performance, retenton in college, graduaton rates, applicatons for outside internships, and ultmately securing employment afer college. Studio Lab is an innovatve way to promote experientallearning by facilitatng connectons between undergraduate students and mentors (tenure-track faculty, instructors, full-tme researchers, and occasionally Ph.D. candidates) at the University of Colorado Boulder. This is truly a new kind of program for a large research university. Preliminary observatons about the lab have been published in

students who are in their frst 2 years of undergraduate educaton although undergraduates at all stages are welcome to apply. Potental mentors apply separately proposing a project on which students can work. We admit students and projects, pair students with mentor-led projects, and pay students to work with their mentors. Studio Lab also holds professionalizaton and social events, and a big end of year poster extravaganza at which students and mentors highlight their work in Studio Lab.

I am working with Abigail Dym, a Ph.D. candidate the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Educaton, to use a randomized experiment to evaluate the ef ectveness of the Studio Lab program. We propose to track 200 students who apply in April 2024 for 4 years. We will have a commitee rank applicants. Students' applicatons will be ranked "1" (defnitely admit), "2" (maybe admit), and "3" (do not admit). We will average the commitee member rankings for each student. Of those students who receive an average score less than a set cut-of (likely 2.5), we will randomize their admission into the program. We are aiming to get at least 200

applicants in spring 2024. Past rounds of applicat ons have results in more than 100 applicants. With addit onal publicizing, we are opt mist c that we can get up to 200 applicants. The randomized admissions will allow us to track the students who were admit ed and the students who were <u>not</u> admit ed for at least 5 years. The 5-year t me frame will allow us to assess whether students were more or less likely to graduate and get jobs.

With this applicat on, we are asking for funds to cover 2 things: 1) part cipant costs in the f rst year of our program evaluat on, and 2) a port on of the costs of Studio Lab's operat ons for the next year which will enable us to admit more students than we typically would.

First, we are asking for funds to cover part cipants costs in our research meaning the cost of paying students $50 annually to complete the end of year survey at the end of the 2024 academic year. In the long run, we hope to survey up t o me n em t   udents $5nt(ts t rr

Studio Lab seeks prioritzes justce, equity, diversity, and inclusion in its admissions of both mentors and undergraduate students. Our goal is to admit a diverse range of projects across the College of Arts & Sciences, and a diverse group of undergraduate students. We facilitate meaningful connectons between faculty, researchers, and students and ofen through project teams with 2 or more students working with a mentor (or sometmes with multple mentors). Certain students, including frst generaton college students and historically underrepresented groups, are much less likely to make these connectons on their own.

We strongly suspect that programs like Studio Lab can help provide pathways for frst-year students to connect with faculty, and provide a way for frst-year students to make c   adu