



Teacher Research Experience: Summary of Requirements

Students and Teachers Achieving Cancer Research Experiences Together		
Program Vision		
To transform our community by enabling students to envision themselves as the next generation of scientific leaders and pursue advanced biomedical careers, while also increasing the local community's understanding of cancer research and prevention.		
Program Mission: You are Part of a Big Picture!		
The START Program at CU Anschutz is a grant received from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Youth Engaged in Science (YES) program. START's three-pronged approach aims to benefit students, teachers, and the community and families of students by:		
1) engaging students in cancer biology science experiences that expose them to new career pathways while building their engagement and identity in science and research.	2) transforming local science education by engaging teachers in mentored cancer biology research experiences, providing high quality professional development, and supporting development of biomedical science curricula. (more details below)	3) educating student family members, friends and community members about the impact of cancer research, cancer risk, and prevention topics.

This document outlines all mandatory requirements that teachers must complete according to the timeline dates in the START Program in order receive the designated outcomes. Fulfilling these requirements ensures successful completion of the 2-year program and it is essential the prospective applicants review these requirements thoroughly. Please send any questions to NCI.START@cuanschutz.edu. This is the first year of the program which we continue to develop so please note that the details of some of the requirements, responsibilities, completion dates and outcomes may differ from those outlined here.

Requirement:	Explanation of duties and responsibilities:	Complete by:	Outcome:
Read, complete & adhere to CU requirements	Review linked CU Anschutz Code of Conduct policy Sign & submit Participant Waiver and Attestation forms	January 2026	Continued acceptance in the START Program
Asynchronous Cancer Biology Lessons Year 1	12 hours of core cancer biology content will be available for self-paced learning.	April-May 2026	\$8,500 stipend for Year 1
Group Review Session	Live discussions will be held to collaboratively review and reinforce foundational concepts.	June 2026	
Attend Summer 1 (2026) Research Experience	The 8-week teacher research experience is 8:00am-4:00pm, June 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026 Excludes the week of June 29, 2026 - July 3, 2026 for holiday purposes; 320 hours total with an allowance of 5% sick days (16 hours)	June-August 2026	
Attend BEST PD Trainings	Attend 12 hours of BEST (Bioscience Educational Support for Teachers) professional development trainings on classroom kits and lessons	July 31, 2026	
Attend Summer 1 Research Symposium	Present a research poster on Friday, July 31, 2026	July 31, 2026	

Create and Implement Novel Curricula	Create 1 unit of 3 lessons pertaining to your summer research experience	September 30, 2026	Contributes to Capstone Project
Lead a Lesson	Present one of the lessons you developed with your mentor lab and share it with the Teacher Network	December 1, 2026	Contributes to Capstone Project
Lessons Year 2	Content is under development and will be available for self-paced learning.	2027	\$8,500 stipend for Year 2
Attend Summer 2 (2027) Research Experience	The 8-week teacher research experience is 8:00am-4:00pm; June 1, 2027 through July 31, 2027 Excludes the week of June 29, 2027 - July 3, 2027 for holiday purposes; 320 hours total with an allowance of 5% sick days (16 hours)	June-August 2027	
Attend Summer 2 Research Symposium	Present a research poster on Friday, July 30, 2027	July 30, 2027	
Create Activities	Create 3 hands on activities (in collaboration with your mentor lab) to share with the Teacher Network	September 30, 2027	Contributes to Capstone Project
Lead an Activity	Use one of the lessons you developed to teach the community at a Fall Community Engagement Event	December 1, 2027	Contributes to Capstone Project
Complete a Capstone Project	This is a portfolio of experience and reflection that you will compile during your 2-year commitment. Details provided on a separate document.	December 1, 2027	12 graduate credits from the University of Colorado START Cancer & Biomedical Sciences Research Certificate Secondary CTE Biotechnology authorization*

* Authorization of the Secondary CTE Biotechnology is a component required for a Career & Technical Licensure by the Colorado Department of Education. It accompanies an online, self-paced training element. The START Team will explain this process in more detail once your START Research Experience is underway.

Program Supports: We are here for you!

Throughout your participation in the START program, multiple components will contribute to your successful completion. While the program maintains rigorous academic and professional standards, comprehensive support systems are in place to facilitate your progress. These include a research mentor each summer, a lab support staff each summer, and access to the START Dashboard, START Teacher Network and the following team contacts:

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