Interview Outline:

Ask participants to fully explain their answers.

1.) Why did you choose a REU program vs. a summer job or other activity?
   • How did you learn about it?
   • What about it seemed interesting/beneficial?
   • Why did you choose WSU specifically for the REU program?

2.) Have you had any experience in research prior to this program?
   • In what way did that experience benefit you?
   • Are you hoping to get similar benefits from this experience?

3.) What kinds of things do you want to achieve in this program?
   • What would make you feel like you’ve been successful in this program?
   • If you were talking to a perspective employer about this program, what would you want to tell them that you accomplished?
   • How confident are you in your ability to accomplish those things?
   • What plans do you have to make sure you accomplish those things?
   • In what ways do you expect your professors and peers will help you accomplish your goals?

4.) Do you feel confident in your abilities to perform the necessary tasks required by the program? (journal research, experiment planning, equipment use, writing and presentation)
   • Are there any parts of the program you are nervous about?
   • Are there any areas you feel you will excel?
   • What are you most looking forward to?

5.) What are your plans after the completion of your undergraduate degree? Do you think this program will affect your decision?
   • Have you considered Grad school?
     ▪ What are the factors that will affect your choice whether or not to go to grad school?
   • Do you want to go straight into industry?
     ▪ What are the factors that will affect your choice whether or not to go straight into industry?

6.) When we say the Scientific Method, what do you think of?
   • What aspects do you think you would be more comfortable working on independently? With guidance from an advisor?
   • Do you feel utilizing the scientific method produces concrete or nebulous results?
   • What level of confidence do you have in those results?

   • Formulate a Question
   • Do Background Research
   • Construct a Hypothesis
   • Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment
   • Analyze Your Data and Draw a Conclusion
   • Communicate Your Results

Example provided by Shelley Pressley at Washington State University, please contact for permission to use (spressley@wsu.edu). Thanks.