

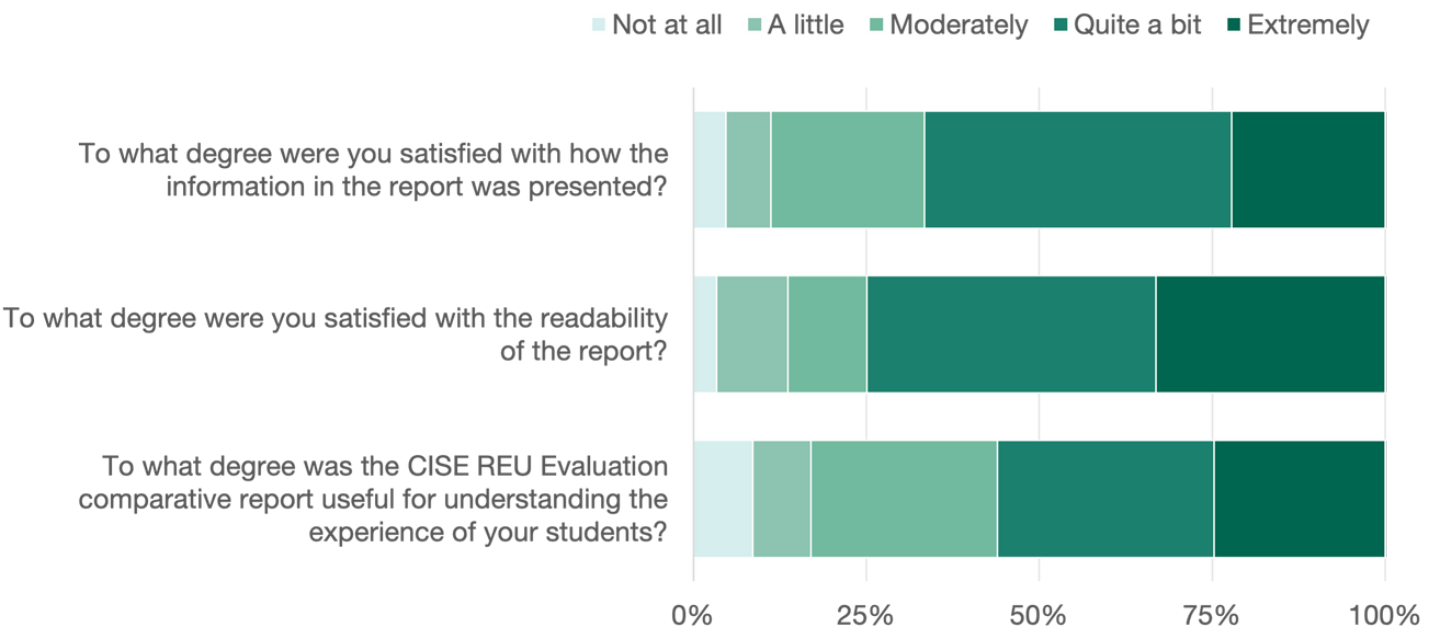
NSF CISE REU Evaluation Community Feedback Summary

Overview

The United States National Science Foundation (NSF) Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Evaluation, managed by the CRA Center for Evaluating the Research Pipeline (CERP), is an evaluation resource that provides critical information to the community on how participation in undergraduate research opportunities impacts student pathways to computing graduate education and computing careers.

CERP conducted outreach to current and past Principal Investigators (PIs) of NSF REU Sites and Supplements who participated in the NSF REU Evaluation in 2022, 2023, or 2024. PIs were asked about their feedback on the CISE REU Evaluation Comparative Reports they received and their comments on the project in general. Feedback collection occurred between October 2024 and December 2024. CERP received 46 responses from 44 projects after reaching out to 143 contacts from 112 projects. Below, we present a summary of the results from this data collection effort.

Respondents were generally satisfied with the CISE REU Evaluation Comparative Reports



How the Comparative Reports are Used

Understand Student Needs/Experience	"I use these reports for understanding students' feedback from which I can improve our program for next iterations." - Anonymous PI (2024 Cohort) "To gauge our undergraduates view and experience in our Computer Science (both majors and minors). We noticed that we performed very high on technical knowledge in the survey. However, in a few questions of the survey we were lagging behind on community and belonging. As a result, we created a 1 credit course on Well-Being Strategies for College and Life, here is the Syllabus for Fall 2024. Currently, the class is going very well and there are 17 students. We will be using class evaluations to gauge their experience." - PI from North Carolina State University (2022 Cohort)
Student Recruitment/ Selection	"The report will be used for student recruitment, planning of program activities, and improvements in research experiences." - Anonymous PI (2024 Cohort) "To assist with program evaluation and student selection. Only 33% of our REU cohort declared a computing major this year, which helps explain the outcomes of this assessment. Our REU is multidisciplinary and it may be difficult to find a category or comparison program. We plan to promote student participation in post-program assessment." - PI from University of Houston (2024 Cohort)
Areas to Improve REU Experience	"I use the reports to identify areas where the program could improve. For example, we made adjustments this year based on feedback from last year's report." - PI from University of Pennsylvania (2024 Cohort) "By analyzing CERP data, our REU team can identify areas where students may need more support or areas where the program could be refined to enhance the student experience and research outcomes. Moreover, CERP reports can be used to compare our REU site's outcomes with national trends and similar programs, which helps in identifying unique strengths and potential improvements." - PI from Kennesaw State University (2024 Cohort)
Comparison to Peer REUs	"Mostly to compare how we are doing relative to our peers." - PI from Carnegie Mellon University (2024 Cohort) "Understanding how our students compare to a larger user base" - PI from Metropolitan State University of Denver (2024 Cohort)
Annual Report	"I use the report to understand students' perception of their REU experience and to report to NSF in the annual report. My main focus in the report are where there are significant differences pre- and post- REU. Lessons learnt from prior REUs are used to improve the subsequent REUs." - PI from CUNY Hunter College (2024 Cohort) "These reports play a critical role in our annual report. We rely on these reports to inform future decisions about our site- what are we doing well? what can we

improve upon? We strongly encourage all REU sites to use the CISE REU survey.” - **PI from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (2023 Cohort)**

Sign up for REU Evaluation!

Are you a new or existing REU Principal Investigator? [Sign up to participate](#) in CERP’s evaluation for NSF CISE REUs!

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