OVERVIEW

West Chester University’s Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) developed a month-long summer research experience to which current WCU undergraduates may apply. Approximately ten to fifteen Undergraduate Research Fellows will spend five weeks during Summer Session I (23 May through 24 June 2016) conducting research and scholarly/creative work that is supported by a community of faculty mentors. SURI is designed to allow current WCU students to pursue a significant research question, contribute to a scholarly endeavor, or to produce an artistic or creative work, while being mentored by a WCU faculty member.

GOALS

· Increase the interest in and opportunities for undergraduate research in all disciplines by providing a focused research opportunity for students
· Promote collaboration among students and between students and faculty for scholarly research, consistent with WCU’s Teacher-Scholar model
· Establish a community of undergraduate scholars
· Encourage participants to present their scholarly work

STRUCTURE

· Between ten and fifteen students and their faculty mentors will be selected through an open and competitive process
· Students will receive up to $1,500 for participation in the four-week program
· Students will be eligible for paid USH campus housing, a full summer meal plan, and Rec Center access for the duration of the program
· Faculty mentors will receive 1 credit hour of summer compensation based on rank and step
· Weekly research-related group workshops and networking activities will be offered

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESSES

· To be eligible for SURI, students must satisfy the following requirements:
  • Be an enrolled full-time WCU student as of Spring 2016
  • Be a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior
  • If a graduating senior, student must be accepted to WCU for graduate studies
  • Have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 at the time of application
  • Be in good academic standing
  • Identified a faculty mentor
· Students will submit applications detailing their research project and the work they hope to accomplish during the SURI
· A faculty member will help the student articulate the research project and will submit a parallel application, indicating willingness to participate in the program should the student application be accepted
· All WCU-CUR members will participate in the application review process
· Although a faculty member may sign more than one student application, the faculty member will only be selected to work with one student
· Applications will be reviewed and rated for:
  o Feasibility
  o Originality
  o Scholarly significance
  o Project’s ability to enhance the student’s development
· Student and faculty mentors will submit their joint application as ONE PDF to research@wcupa.edu no later than F, 22 Jan 16

Awardees will be announced by the end of February or beginning of March 2016.

ADMINISTRATION

All activities associated with the SURI will be administered by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) staff, with the assistance of WCU-CUR members.