

2018 WCU Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI) Call for Proposals

Application must be submitted as a single PDF file via email (research@wcupa.edu) before 5 PM Friday, February 23, 2018.

Overview

West Chester University's Council on Undergraduate Research invites applications for a summer research experience to which current WCU undergraduates are eligible to apply. Selected applicants will spend five weeks during summer 2018 (June 4th through July 6th) conducting research and scholarly/creative work full-time (40 hours/week) under the direct supervision of a faculty member. At the end of the five-week program, interested students will be able to apply for a three-week extension to their experience, during which they can continue work on their projects. SURI allows undergraduate students to pursue a substantial research question, contribute to a scholarly endeavor, or to produce an artistic or creative work, while being mentored by a faculty member.

Program Purpose

- 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.
- Establish a community of undergraduate scholars, where the students develop basic skills in all aspects for conducting research - research question development, Institutional Review Board (IRB) application, data collection, analysis and preparation of manuscript and/or presentation.
- Promote critical and analytical thinking skills and prepare undergraduate students for graduate-level studies and/or careers.

Eligibility

- The applicant must be a current West Chester University undergraduate student.
- The applicant must be able to work full-time (40 hours/week) for the program during its five/eight week duration.
- The applicant must not be graduating before Fall 2018 semester.
- Eight to ten applicants will be selected through a competitive review process; please see the evaluation rubric at the end of this document.

Funding

- Students will receive a fixed stipend of \$ 2000.00 for participation in the five week program. Students applying and selected for three extra weeks will receive an additional \$1200.00.
- Students will be eligible for paid University Student Housing (USH) campus housing, a full summer meal plan, and Rec Center access for the duration of the program.
- Faculty will receive 1 credit pay for the five week program and 0.5 credit if they are mentoring a student for another 3 weeks.

Student Expectations

- Spend 40 hours a week on the project.
- Work under the direct supervision of the faculty mentor.
- Participate in periodic research-related group workshops, networking sessions and closing event.
- Prepare an oral or a poster presentation at WCU Research Day during Fall 18 or Spring 19.
- Complete entrance and exit surveys to reflect on their experience and assess the impact of SURI.
- Submit a final report.
- Maintain professional behavior.

Faculty Mentor Expectations

- Mentor the student throughout the research process.
- Attend the orientation and closing event.

Application Instructions

Complete application form should be submitted as a single .pdf file. The application form includes sections that need to be completed by the student and faculty mentor. The submitted form must have electronic signatures of faculty mentor, Chair of the department and the Dean of the College. Applications must be supplemented by two (2) letters of recommendation, at least one of which must be from a West Chester University faculty member. The letters need to be part of the single .pdf file.

Evaluation Rubric

Reviewers will score each proposal in the following categories as excellent (3), acceptable (2), or poor (1). The proposals and ratings will be discussed in a panel.

SURI APPLICATION REVIEW RUBRIC

Attribute	3	2	1
	Excellent	Acceptable	Poor
1. Description of project goals	Clearly articulated the research question or description of what the project intends to create, invent, or discover. Listed at least two objectives	Partial description of the goals; listed one objective	Poorly articulated the research question or description of what the research intends to create, invent, or discover.
2. Project's significance to area of study	Clearly explained the significance of project to the field of study (the uniqueness and importance of the potential contribution)-listed at least two aspects	Partially explained the significance and impact of research/study –listed one aspect	No explanation of the significance or impact of the proposed research
3. Awareness of the outcome of the project	Clearly explained and listed at least two outcomes- a commitment to present and publish	Some explanation of the outcome- commitment to present	No explanation of the commitment
4. Project's contribution to student's academic/career goals	Clear explanation of the contributions to the student's academic or career goals, by listing at least two ways the project can help	Listed one contribution of the project to the students' academic or career goals	No explanation of the impact on the student's academic or career goals
5. Mentor's contribution to student's education	The proposed activities are student-focused. Role, involvement, and activities of student and faculty mentor are carefully presented and explained.	Role, involvement, and activities of the faculty mentor are only generally presented.	No clear description of the role, involvement, and activities of the faculty mentor

Maximum Score of 15

NAME OF REVIEWER: _____

All project outcomes are subject to University copyright, patent, and proprietary data policies.

For further information or questions, contact the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs via email at research@wcupa.edu.