

EPSCoR Supervised Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE)

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions in response to the SURE Request for Applications as of **April 28, 2011**.

Proposals Due: May 9, 2011

Question:

Are veterinary students considered undergraduates for the purposes of the SURE RFA?

Answer:

Only those students who are considered undergraduates by their institution are eligible.

Question:

When is the earliest start date for the SURE research project?

Answer:

We would hope to have the funding recommendations in place by the latter part of May, perhaps by the 23rd, with contracts issued (to the faculty mentor's institution) as soon as possible thereafter. The start dates of the contracts are negotiable, and institutions may wish to set up accounts in advance of the actual receipt of the contracts.

Question:

Do the students (or faculty mentors) need to be U.S. citizens (and/or resident aliens)?

Answer:

Students or faculty mentors need not be U. S. citizens or resident aliens.

Question:

Are all NSF-funded fields eligible, including the social/behavioral sciences, in addition to STEM disciplines?

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

Please describe the review process. Who will review the student projects? How are they rated and when will the reviews be completed and announced?

Answer:

The proposals will be reviewed by a subset of the State EPSCoR Committee, with the possible addition of individuals who serve on the Diversity Advisory Council that is associated with the current NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement award to Louisiana. The selection criteria are listed in the RFA.

Question:

How many students will your funding allow you to support for each deadline?

Answer:

For the May 2011 deadline, there is approximately \$100K available to fund projects, so that would mean 20 students at \$5,000 per project. For the entire second year of the program (December 2011 and Spring 2012 deadlines) there will also be approximately this same amount. However, the second year is contingent upon NSF's approval of continuation of the EPSCoR project.

Question:

I would like to verify that Round 1 (May 2011) and Round 2 (December 2011) of the competition are independent of each other, meaning that there are actually two competitions that the faculty and student can apply for; i.e., if they wish to apply for Round two and not for Round one that is acceptable.

Answer:

That is correct.

Question:

My institution is on the quarter system. The SURE RFA indicates that a student's research can span two semesters. Would this translate to three quarters, or just two?

Answer:

The word "term" is used to describe the duration of the research experience in section B.4 of the RFA. (The word "semester" was used in the example.) Therefore, the research can span two terms, terms being equivalent in your case to either a summer or a quarter.

Question:

How can I guarantee that I get the SURE grant if an undergraduate student picks me as their research supervisor?

Answer:

The SURE applications will be reviewed by a subset of the State EPSCoR Committee. This is a competitive program, so there is no guarantee that a particular SURE application will be recommended for funding. The relative merits of the applications received will be evaluated in making the funding recommendations.

Question:

I've entered my "Faculty Profile" information which includes a "Project Description" section. I also see a separate link where one can "Upload and Submit Proposal". However, I did not see any guidelines as to what should be included in the proposal. Beyond the Project Description (given in the Faculty Profile), what should this proposal section include? Also, are there any criteria as to the length or sections (if any) to include in this proposal upload?

Answer:

The 'proposal' is a completed SURE Student Application Form, which must be completed by the student with assistance from the Faculty Mentor. The form has a section that deals with the proposed research project.