

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 (RFA) as of **March 21, 2012**.

Proposals Due: April 17, 2012

Question:

What is the timeline for award announcement? Could a project begin as early as summer 2012? When is the earliest start date for the SURE research project?

Answer:

It is expected that the funding recommendations will be in place by early- to mid-May, 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 I use the PDF file to compose the RFA application, or can I copy and paste it into Microsoft Word and edit it there? Where do I send the completed application? Also, after the RFA application is completed, is there another application that I will need to fill out?

Answer:

The SURE RFA contains detailed instructions for completing the application, which must be done online.

Question:

I have a question regarding those individuals that are considered an underrepresented minority. When I print out the RFA, I see the list provided for racial background, but I cannot see the ethnic backgrounds that are listed unless I were to actually complete an application form. What are they?

Answer:

The following is taken from an NSF report entitled "Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering: 2011"

Women, persons with disabilities, and three racial/ethnic groups—blacks, Hispanics, and American Indians—are considered underrepresented in science and engineering because they constitute smaller percentages of science and engineering degree recipients and of employed scientists and engineers than they do of the population. Asians are not considered underrepresented because they are a larger percentage of science and engineering degree recipients and of employed scientists and engineers than they are of the population. Subgroups of Hispanics and Asians may vary in terms of under- or overrepresentation in science and engineering.

This program (SURE) considers individuals in those categories (including Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians) as underrepresented minorities.

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:

Can an individual who held a SURE grant last year apply for another grant for this year?

Answer:

Yes. This is not prohibited by the RFA.

Question:

My professor nominated me and a fellow classmate for the Supervised Undergraduate Research Experiences program. Would my classmate and I be able to conduct this research together as a group? Or are we only allowed to work individually?

Answer:

The program is set up for individual students. The Faculty member may support up to two students, and they can certainly work together; however, this would be two separate applications and there is no guarantee that both would be recommended for funding.

Question:

Will the SURE proposals funded during this round start on June 1st and end December 31st like last year's proposals did?

Answer:

We expect to have funding recommendations sometime in May. The contract will be a year in duration, enough to cover summer 2012, fall 2012, and spring 2013.

Question:

Is a retired professor (Professor Emeritus and Scholar-in Residence) who holds a non-compensated position at our institution eligible to serve as a Faculty Mentor?

Answer:

If your institution considers the individual described as a faculty member, and his/her discipline is one that NSF supports, then he/she is eligible to serve as a Faculty Mentor.

Question:

I am an undergraduate student interested in applying to the SURE Program. However, I am not a full-time student due to my documented disabilities. Am I eligible to apply if my documented disabilities keep me from attending school full-time?

Answer:

Because your disabilities are the reason that you cannot take a full time load, you are eligible to apply for a SURE grant. There is a section of the SURE Student Application Form (which is completed online with the assistance of the Faculty Mentor) that allows you to explain your disability; you should mention here that you cannot take a full time load.

Question:

Are Chinese students (born and raised in China, and attending college in the U.S.) considered an underrepresented minority, and therefore eligible for the SURE program?

Answer:

NSF considers women and the following groups to be underrepresented minorities in STEM disciplines: Blacks or African-Americans; those of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity; American Indian or Alaskan Natives; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders; or those with disabilities (e.g., hearing, visual, or mobility impairments). Asians are not considered underrepresented in STEM disciplines.

Question:

If a student is not matriculated full-time during the current semester (i.e. spring 2012), but will be full-time during the semester(s) when the research project will be carried out, will this student be eligible?

Answer:

If the student is matriculated full-time during the research experience, the student is eligible.

Question:

I am a student who wishes to apply to the SURE program, but I am a bit confused about the application progress. Does my Faculty Mentor log onto LOGAN to complete part of the application or is there a way for me to log on and complete my information?

Answer:

Your faculty mentor needs to log on to the LOGAN system to complete the application with your assistance. If he/she gives you the log on information, you can complete parts of the application form yourself.

Question:

Can a SURE application have joint faculty mentors?

Answer:

Yes. One faculty member will have to serve as the primary principal investigator on the contract, if the SURE application is recommended for funding. If the faculty members are from different institutions, there will still be a single contract, issued to the primary principal investigator's institution.

Question:

I am a female undergraduate student currently engaged in a research project with a faculty member and plan on graduating in May 2012. Is this program applicable retroactively, or for a project that has already begun?

Answer:

There is no restriction that applies to ongoing projects; however, research projects funded under this round of the SURE program will begin during summer 2012 or later. The SURE award cannot be applied retroactively. Students who will have completed their Bachelor's degree before the research experience begins are not eligible.

Question:

If a student applying for the SURE grant is a LAMP or McNair Scholar, can they use the same research topic/project in both the SURE program and the other program?

Answer:

Yes, he/she can use the same research topic.

Question:

Can the research conducted in the SURE project be a continuation of current research?

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

How should the faculty mentor document the work hours for a student? Does the faculty mentor have to be present for all of these work hours?

Answer:

In the RFA it is mentioned that the student's effort should be consistent with 320 hours of work. This was intended as a guideline for the Faculty Mentor to gauge the level of effort that the student should put forth, and not as a requirement that work hours be tallied. However, you should consult with your sponsored programs accounting office to determine how they want to handle the stipend.

Question:

Do meetings via electronic means (i.e. Skype, virtual classrooms, email) count as work hours?

Answer:

As noted in the previous question, it is not our intent to count hours. It is up to the Faculty Mentor to determine the best means to assist the student; interactions facilitated by electronic means are certainly appropriate.

Question:

Is a male student with no disabilities that is Black or Hispanic, or Latino, etc., but not a US citizen or permanent resident eligible for this program?

Answer:

The RFA contains no restrictions on students' citizenship or resident status, so yes, an individual meeting this description would be eligible.