

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 28, 2013**.
Questions can no longer be answered.

Proposals Due: April 8, 2013

Question:

Can there be two faculty mentors for a single SURE application?

Answer:

The SURE application module (an element of the Board's LOGAN electronic proposal submission system) can accept only one faculty mentor. There is no particular reason two mentors couldn't collaborate with a single SURE student; but only one of them can officially be denoted as the SURE faculty mentor.

Question:

I am trying to fill out the SURE student application form online at LOGAN but I cannot find the application. Where should I look?

Answer:

The SURE module for LOGAN will be available first week of March 2013.

Question:

I am an undergraduate but I'll be graduating Spring 2013, i.e. this semester and intend to go to graduate school in fall of 2013. Am I eligible to apply?

Answer:

The SURE Request for Applications (RFA) states "Students who will have completed their bachelor's degree before the research experience begins are not eligible." So you are not eligible.

Question:

Are Asian males eligible to apply?

Answer:

The SURE RFA notes that eligibility is limited to women and individuals who are considered underrepresented minorities by NSF: Black or African-American; Hispanic or Latino; American Indian or Alaskan Native; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; or those students with disabilities (e.g., hearing, visual, or mobility impairments). An Asian male would thus not be eligible to apply, unless he had a disability.

Question:

Does it make a difference that I was awarded a SURE grant in the past? Will that hurt my chances at obtaining a second SURE grant?

Answer:

Your having had a previous SURE award doesn't make you ineligible, nor does that fact negatively affect your chances during the review process.

Question:

How many SURE grants will be awarded in this competition?

Answer:

It is difficult to give an exact number of how many will be funded under this competition; but it is expected that the approximate number funded will be between 20-30, dependent upon how many applications are received, the quality of the applications, etc.

Question:

What is the contract start date for successful SURE applications?

Answer:

We expect a contract start date of June 1.

Question:

Is it sufficient for the research experience to be performed over one semester only?

Answer:

The SURE Request for Applications states that "a research experience may be completed in one summer; over summer and the following (fall) semester/term; over summer and the following fall and spring semesters/terms; or over the fall and spring semesters/terms." You should also keep in mind that the student should dedicate a level of effort consistent with no less than 320 hours of work over the course of the research experience.

Question:

Is sociology considered one of the disciplines that would be eligible?

Answer:

Sociology is one of the disciplines supported by NSF, so it would be considered a STEM discipline, and would thus be eligible.

Question:

We are considering submitting a SURE application for a project that will involve animals. Do we need to submit an approved IACUC form with the application, or does the university just need to have one on file for the work?

Answer:

We do not need a copy, but you should mention in the application that you do have the necessary approvals to do the work, and the university should keep the appropriate forms on file.

Question:

Are students who are Louisiana residents but are currently studying outside Louisiana for their B.S. degree eligible to apply?

Answer:

The RFA states in Section B.2 that the program is available to undergraduate students who are currently matriculated at a Louisiana institution, so these students would not be eligible.

Question:

Does the \$500 stipend for the faculty member include fringe or not?

Answer:

The SURE Request for Applications states that the faculty mentor will receive a supplemental grant of \$500 per student specifically for the purchase of research supplies associated with mentoring students and/or travel by students/mentors to meetings or conferences to present research findings. Provision of the \$500 to the faculty mentor as a stipend is therefore not an allowable expense.

Question:

Whom are you expecting to write the 250 word research proposal abstract: the student alone, or the student with help from the faculty mentor?

Answer:

The RFA does not specify who should write the abstract; so you can proceed as you see fit.

Question:

If I have two female students wanting to submit a SURE application for different research projects, can I sponsor both of them?

Answer:

The RFA states (in Section B.3) that each faculty mentor may sponsor a maximum of one student.

Question:

In the RFA, the supplemental grant for supplies and travel expenses is listed as \$500, but on the Board of Regents Sponsored Programs webpage, it is listed as \$1000. Could you clarify this for me?

Answer:

The RFA is correct. The total SURE award is \$4,500, of which \$500 is designated for a supplemental grant to the faculty mentor.

Question:

I am a post-doctoral researcher and adjunct faculty/professor; is that an acceptable position for the faculty advisor role for this program?

Answer:

The SURE RFA states in Section B.2 that faculty mentors must hold a faculty position at a Louisiana institution of higher education; your status as holding a faculty position is determined by your institution. If your institution considers you a faculty member, then you are eligible to be a SURE faculty mentor.

Question:

It seems like the application only requires an abstract of the research proposal, correct? Does a formal proposal need to be submitted along with the abstract?

Answer:

You need to submit only what is asked for in the SURE RFA.

Question:

One major change in the SURE RFA this year compared to the last two years is that each faculty mentor may only sponsor a maximum of one student (p. 3 under B.3). In the past, faculty have been allowed to sponsor up to two. Does this mean that each faculty member can only submit one grant with one student as well, or can we still submit two different grants with two different students that may be interested but only get one?

Answer:

Each faculty mentor can submit only one application, for one student. This is indeed a change from last year.

Question:

I am an international student studying at <University>. Is an international student qualified for applying for SURE?

Answer:

The SURE RFA contains no restrictions concerning international students.