

# 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 **August 22, 2025**, which was the last day to answer questions.

**Proposals Due: September 5, 2025**

## Question:

If I would submit an application for the SURE award for an undergraduate student and the plan is for the student is to work 320 hours for the period of award (I am assuming the pay is hourly). In case the students gets a summer internship and is not able to work these hours, is there any penalty?

## Answer:

It is the expectation that the student will complete the SURE research experience over no more than 3 semesters with a level of effort consistent with 320 hours of work. While there is no penalty if the student is unable to complete the research project, depending on the hours worked and what was accomplished, it may result in less than the full stipend being paid.

## Question:

The Eligible Disciplines on the “Cover Page” of the Supervised Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE) don’t appear to directly align with the Eligible Disciplines per the FIRST Louisiana 2030 Science and Technology Plan. Please help me clarify and please excuse me if I have overlooked something.

The Eligible Disciplines from FIRST Louisiana 2030 Science and Technology Plan appear to be: Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, Economical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Mathematics, Biomedical Sciences, Engineering, Computational Sciences, Earth Sciences, and Agricultural Sciences.

The Eligible Disciplines from the SURE Cover Page are: Advanced Manufacturing, Agriculture & Forestry, Biomedical, Cybersecurity, Coastal Restoration, Energy, Resilience & Disaster Recovery, and Structural Integrity Assurance.

## Answer:

Thank you for your inquiry. The eligible disciplines listed in the SURE RFA are taken from page 7 of the FIRST Louisiana 2030 plan. These are priority research areas deemed to be of strategic importance to Louisiana and align with existing business and industry needs.

Question:

I am a Visiting Assistant Professor with the School of Geoscience at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. I was looking into applying for the SURE grant application but am unsure if my "visiting" status would make me ineligible to apply. I am currently working on a project for agrivoltaics (agriculture under solar panels) and would be interested in having undergraduate students working with us on a variety of topics including soil health, plant morphology, and energy production. Thankyou, and I look forward to hearing back from you soon if my "visiting" statues would affect my application.

Answer:

Your status as a visiting Assistant Professor would make you ineligible to serve as a PI on this funding opportunity.

Question:

I am a student at Louisiana State University. I was notified of your program and had a question regarding the time frame for the grant. For this grant, you have one year to complete the required hours towards your project. Are you required to work on it over the summer, or are you allowed to do the fall semester, the spring semester, and the next fall semester? I am a little confused about the required time frame. Could you please clarify the required time frame and details to me?

Answer:

Per the RFP, "Students are expected to complete the research experience over no more than three consecutive terms/semesters, which may include summer. For example, a research experience may be completed in one summer; over summer and the following (fall) semester/term; or over spring, summer and fall semesters/terms."

Question:

Can a previously funded mentor/student combo apply for the SURE funds a second time?

Answer:

There is no restriction in the RFP against supporting previously funded applicants. Therefore, this application would be eligible.

Question:

One of our junior faculty members from the School of Architecture and Design has shown interest in your SURE program. Even though he is from a "non-STEM" discipline, his work is not. Will he be eligible for the program?

The two projects proposed are:

Flood-Resilient Housing Prototype Design for Coastal Louisiana

Public Building Design Guidelines Based on Hazard Mitigation Plans in Louisiana

The intent is to guide students through these projects using document analysis and stakeholder interviews, following a social science-oriented research process. Could you please let me know if these projects would meet the eligibility criteria for the program?

Answer:

Since the proposed research projects clearly fall within one of the eligible disciplines outlined in the RFA, this application would be eligible.

Question:

I have a faculty that wants to submit to the BoR SURE application. Does the faculty mentor have to be supported by LA-NEXT? If so, do you have a list of faculty that are supported?

Answer:

No, the faculty mentor does not need to be supported by LA-NEXT. Any faculty member at a Louisiana public of higher education or in a higher education institution that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU) is eligible.

Question:

Is a budget form required when we submit the application? Or just the cover page, student application form and my letter of recommendation for the student?

Answer:

No budget form is required. If the application is approved, the student will receive a \$4,500 stipend/scholarship and the faculty mentor \$500 for supplies. The required components are the cover page, student application form, and letter of recommendation from the faculty mentor.

Question:

I wanted to know if images/diagrams were allowed to be submitted in the abstract or if it should be strictly text?

Answer:

Images and diagrams are allowed.