

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 **May 13, 2026**, which was the last day to answer questions.

Proposals Due: June 3, 2026

Question:

I am writing to seek clarification regarding the eligibility criteria outlined in the recent SURE program RFP. Specifically, I noticed that “biomedical” is listed among the eligible disciplines.

Could you please clarify whether this requirement refers to the formal appointment/department of the faculty mentor and the student’s major, or if it is intended to apply more broadly to the research project topic itself (i.e., projects that fall within the scope of biomedical engineering regardless of departmental affiliation)?

Answer:

If the proposed research project clearly falls within one of the eligible disciplines outlined in the RFA, of which biomedical engineering would be one, this application would be eligible.

Question:

Citizenship Eligibility: I wanted to confirm whether non-U.S. citizens are eligible to apply. I am an international student from Nigeria currently studying in the U.S., and I did not see any specific citizenship requirements listed on the website.

Graduation Timeline: I am currently a junior and expect to graduate in May next year. Since the program runs for a year, I wanted to confirm whether graduating before the program concludes would affect my eligibility, especially if I would still be available during Summer 2027.

Application Submission Process: Apart from completing the application form attached to the RFA, is there a specific submission link, or should the completed form be sent directly to the grant officer at my institution? I would appreciate clarification on this process.

Answer:

Citizenship Eligibility: There are no restrictions on citizenship. The only requirement is that you are enrolled at a Louisiana institution of higher education.

Graduation Timeline: As a junior, you are eligible to apply to the SURE program. However, the SURE research project would have to be completed prior to your graduation date.

Application Submission Process: There are other requirements to the SURE application apart from the student form. Please work with your faculty mentor to ensure a fully compliant application. The SURE application must be submitted to the Board by your Office of Sponsored Programs.

Question:

I want to ask if there are any informational sessions towards applying for this program, and if there are, would I still be able to register for them to learn more about the application process.

Answer:

There are no information sessions on the application process.

Question:

I am a professor in Geosciences at UL and I was wondering about the eligibility of my discipline. I checked the State Plan 2030 and geoscience is included in the strategic focus areas; however, in the Attachments within the RFP geoscience is not an eligible discipline. I would appreciate any information you could give me.

Finally, by reading the RFP I understood that a detailed project description (in the form of a proposal) is not required, only a 250-word abstract. Am I reading the call correctly?

Answer:

The proposed research project must fall within one of the disciplines outlined in the RFA. Please choose the discipline that most closely aligns with your project.

Correct, a 250-word abstract is required rather than a full proposal. These applications are meant to be concise.

Question:

We were considering the SURE program and who is eligible for the outreach component of the program. The RFP states:

"The vision of LA-NEXT is to build and sustain strong networks of collaboration, communication, and partnership among the diverse institutions of higher education in the jurisdiction, thus transforming the STEM R&D enterprise of the State. These networks of excellence will extend to K-12 institutions and for-profit, non-profit, academic, and non-academic entities, resulting in a highly diverse research and education environment that will accelerate innovation and enhance economic development in Louisiana."

Are homeschool students an acceptable outreach target for the SURE program? They may not be part of a particular institution or entity (although some could be part of a local homeschool co-op).

Answer:

Per the RFP, "The SURE program is available to full-time undergraduate students who are matriculated at a Louisiana public institution of higher education, or in a higher education institution that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (LAICU)." Therefore, homeschool students would not be eligible to apply.

Question:

I am thinking more of the homeschool students being the target audience of the undergraduate student's outreach efforts. So the undergraduate would be the one applying to the SURE program, but when they do their outreach it would be toward a group of homeschool students. Would that be ok?

Answer:

The SURE program is a research program, not an outreach program. SURE provides opportunities for students to conduct supervised research under the mentorship of a faculty member.