CTL Undergraduate Research Fellowship
University of Oregon

Project Description

In 1998, Dr. Edward J. Kame’enui, Dean-Knight Professor Emeritus and Founding Director of the Center on Teaching and Learning (CTL), created and established the Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF) Program for a singular purpose: To support University of Oregon undergraduate students who are committed to research and the process of scientific inquiry and are likely to pursue graduate studies with a commitment to conducting a sustained program of research.

The Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF) Program supports Oregon residents who are full-time juniors and seniors in any major area of study to work as Research Fellows in any discipline (e.g., Chemistry, Education, English, Geography, Psychology) at the University of Oregon. Three fellowship positions are available for the 2015-2016 school year. Admission to the program is highly competitive. Students appointed to this fellowship are responsible for arranging their own research experience, which must meet the approval of the URF Director. All URFs are granted a tuition waiver for each term during the academic year (Fall, Winter, and Spring; maximum of 17 credits per term) and are expected to commit a minimum of 10 hours per week to their research project. The URF fellowship and tuition waivers are contingent on making adequate progress and completing all requirements on a term-by-term basis. URFs will also be required to enroll in a research seminar for 1 credit hour each term during the 2015-2016 academic year. Admission to the program is based on the quality of a student’s application, personal statement (general focus, integration of activities, detailed planning), academic record, and faculty recommendations.

The Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF) Program is sponsored by the Center on Teaching and Learning (CTL). As a well-established research center at the UO, CTL reports to the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (VPRI) and its faculty affiliate with the College of Education (COE). Visit http://ctl.uoregon.edu/research/urf for more information.

Student Qualifications and Application Criteria

Students from any major who demonstrate substantial interest in research and who intend to pursue graduate school may apply to the URF program. The program is designed to support full-time students of junior or senior class standing with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.50. Applicants should provide a one-page personal statement that describes their goals, career aspirations, and topics of interest and experience in research. In addition to the personal statement, two letters of recommendation are required from faculty at the University of Oregon or another recently attended university. Applicants must complete an URF application and provide an unofficial transcript from all universities attended.

Summary of Criteria

- Oregon resident
- Junior / Senior class standing
- 1 page personal statement of career goals, research interests, and experience
- Unofficial transcript(s)
- Full-time student
- 3.50 cumulative GPA or better
- 2 letters of recommendation from University of Oregon faculty members or another recently attended university
- Program application
Application Process Timeline

All application materials for fellowships for the 2015-2016 academic year are due May 1, 2015. Interviews for qualified and selected applicants will take place in mid-May. Recipients of the URF awards will be notified by June 12, 2015. Students have five days after the date of their notification letter to confirm acceptance of an URF award. Positions not confirmed in a timely fashion will be offered to other qualified applicants. Questions should be directed to Tanya Sheehan (541-346-1472 or tsheehan@uoregon.edu).

Recommendation Letters

Recommendation letters from two faculty members (one letter from the student’s proposed faculty research mentor and one letter from another reference) are required (Application Section II, Items 2C and 3B). Letters should be addressed to the URF Selection Committee and:

1) Emailed directly from the faculty member to tsheehan@uoregon.edu (preferred method); or
2) Placed in a sealed envelope with the faculty member’s signature across the seal and included with the rest of the application materials.

Applicants are allowed to submit additional letters of recommendation if desired.

Application Submission

Completed applications should be submitted to: URF Selection Committee (c/o Tanya Sheehan):

1) U.S. Mail Address: Center on Teaching and Learning
   5292 University of Oregon
   Eugene, OR 97403-5292
2) Campus Mail Address: Center on Teaching and Learning (CTL)
   Riverfront Research Park
3) Hand Delivery Address: Center on Teaching and Learning, Suite 207
   Riverfront Research Park
   1600 Millrace Drive

Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity

The Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF) Program is sponsored by the Center on Teaching and Learning (CTL), which reports to the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (VPRI) at the University of Oregon. The CTL and the University of Oregon ensure the right of all individuals to equal opportunity in education and employment in all programs sponsored by the university without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, marital status, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or any other extraneous consideration not directly and substantively related to merit or performance. In addition, the university subscribes to the fundamental importance of a multicultural and diverse work force and student body to the effective implementation of its mission. Therefore, the university will take additional steps to afford members of protected groups every reasonable opportunity to participate as employees and students in the university's programs. This policy will be applied in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and executive orders.

Sexual Harassment. The university does not tolerate sexual harassment in its many forms. Students and employees who believe they have been subjected to sexually based behavior or proposals should contact the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity.

For assistance in any of these areas, write or call the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, 474 Oregon Hall, 5221 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403; telephone (541) 346-3123.

2015-2016 URF Information & Application
Undergraduate Research Fellowship
University of Oregon

2015 - 2016 Application

Section I.

Name ____________________________    UO ID # ________________
Current Address ____________________________ ____________________________
City ________________________  State _________    ZIP Code ________________
Telephone (home) ____________________________    (message) ____________________________
Email Address ____________________________

Ethnic Identity (mark all that apply):
(Optional - declining to provide this information will not effect consideration of your application)

_____ Decline Response
_____ Asian  _____ Black or African-American
_____ Hispanic or Latino or Chicano  _____ Native American or Alaska Native
_____ White, non-Hispanic  _____ Pacific Islander
_____ Middle Eastern  _____ Other: ____________________________

Class standing (anticipated as of September 1, 2015):   _____ Junior   _____ Senior
Are you an Oregon resident?   _____ Yes   _____ No
Anticipated Graduation Date:  _______________
Anticipated Number of Credit Hours:  Fall _____  Winter _____  Spring _____
Major Course of Study:  ____________________________
Current Overall Grade Point Average (GPA): _______  Current Major GPA: _______
Will you be on campus for the next 3 consecutive terms?   Yes   No
If not, please explain:  ____________________________
Section II.

1. On a separate sheet of paper, provide a one page personal statement that describes your goals, career aspirations, and topics of interest and experience in research.

2A. Provide contact information for the faculty member that will serve as a mentor during your research experience.

   Name ___________________________   Rank ___________________________
   Office Address ___________________________
   Office Phone ___________________________   Email Address ___________________________

2B. On a separate sheet of paper, identify and briefly describe the potential research site (e.g., laboratory, research group) and research project that could serve as a research placement for your URF.

2C. Provide a letter of commitment and recommendation from your potential research mentor.

3A. Provide contact information for one additional reference from the University of Oregon or another university.

   Name ___________________________   Rank ___________________________
   Office Address ___________________________
   Office Phone ___________________________   Email Address ___________________________

3B. Provide a letter of recommendation from the reference named in Item 3A.

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Application Checklist:

_____ Application Form
_____ One page personal statement (Section II, Item 1)
_____ Description of potential research project (Section II, Item 2B)
_____ Two letters of recommendation from faculty (Section II, Items 2C and 3B)
_____ Unofficial University transcript(s) from all universities attended