

SFA College of Sciences and Mathematics

Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)

The College of Sciences and Mathematics will be offering their summer mentoring research program (SURE) for undergraduate students interested in conducting research. The SURE program began in the summer of 2018, and has funded 47 research projects involving CoSM faculty and students. This program provides undergraduate students with a transformative learning experience and the opportunity to develop skills needed for academic and professional success after graduation.

Undergraduate research projects may involve:

- developing soft skills (critical thinking, problem-solving, adaptability, quantitative reasoning, communication, personal and time management, professionalism, collaboration, and responsibility),
- identifying and utilizing relevant previous work in support of a research project,
- identifying and utilizing appropriate methodologies to address a research question or creative objective,
- meeting the relevant field's standards for the responsible conduct of research and effectively navigating challenges that arise in the research process,
- working collaboratively with other researchers through demonstration of effective communication and problem-solving skills,
- writing a manuscript and/or presenting the research effectively in a conference setting,
- reflecting constructively on the research experience: identifying what was learned, personal strengths and opportunities for growth, and how the experience informs future educational and career goals.

The SURE program requires that student recipients:

- be paired with a faculty member for the research experience,
- spend approximately 10 - 12 hours per week on research for a summer term and being present on campus or in the field for the duration of the term,
- mentor an assigned student recruited by college initiative for underrepresented groups (if applicable),
- attend weekly research meetings during the second semester of the summer term (with other SURE awardees) to discuss topics presented by faculty mentors,
- create a research poster by the end of the SURE,
- present research orally at Showcase Saturday events and at the end of the SURE, and
- submit a summary report of project results, a grant application based on results, or professional publication to strengthen proposals for future funding.

Program Guidelines:

- This experience is intended to expand a college-wide undergraduate research program.
- Formal SURE activities will be scheduled during the second summer term. However, work on individual projects may start as early as the spring semester or first summer term.
- Applications are due in the dean's office by Friday, February 10, 2023. The target date for award notifications is Wednesday, March 1, 2023. Students should be involved in the development of the applications as part of the mentoring process.
- Faculty members will lead the discussions for at least one of the weekly meetings (if applicable) and will receive a maximum \$1,300 stipend including departmental matches.
- Students receive a minimum \$500 scholarship applied to their fall tuition bill with a possible match from the department (depending on available funds). Students must enroll in the fall semester following their SURE project to receive the scholarship.
- Up to \$500 is available for supplies. Recipients are encouraged to request matching funds from their department.

Application and additional information can be found at <https://bit.ly/3EedliG>.