



## 2021 SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (SURE) FACULTY RESEARCH MENTOR FACT SHEET

*Currently, the 2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) at West Virginia University is being planned as an onsite program according to schedule. Due to the ongoing circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the ability for an onsite program may change at any time. Please note that WVU may cancel or shift (from onsite to virtual) the 2021 SURE Site if, in WVU's sole discretion, the state of the COVID-19 pandemic has not improved sufficiently for WVU to safely hold the program.*

- SURE is for undergraduate students interested in **graduate school** and research/creative work within their discipline or a related discipline. Selected participants will complete research at West Virginia University for 8 weeks (minimum of 40 hours per week) during the summer under the direction of a WVU faculty research mentor and a graduate or post-doctoral mentor.
- The SURE program is open to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) majors. Limited funding is available to support students in other majors (e.g., arts, humanities, business, and education).
- If selected, SURE participants will receive a \$4,000 stipend (split into four payments) for their 8 weeks of full-time research. The SURE program does not provide funding for the faculty mentor. However, \$230 in enrichment funds may be available for the SURE participant's research/creative supplies or for travel associated with presentation of SURE research at national or regional discipline-specific conference or workshop. Enrichment funds would be available on a competitive, individual basis. It is assumed that the SURE participant will be integrated into an already funded project within the faculty research mentor's laboratory.
- It is expected that the SURE faculty research mentor or, at times, responsible designee (graduate or postdoc) will be available for eight of the nine weeks from June 1 to July 30, 2021 (one week of vacation is built in for SURE participant and/or faculty) to mentor the SURE participant and oversee the participant's research. In addition, it is the responsibility of the SURE faculty research mentor to ensure that the SURE participant receives any required/mandatory trainings involving safety, confidentiality, or running of instrumentation prior to beginning the SURE research.
- It is expected that the SURE participant would be integrated fully into the faculty research mentor's group and that the SURE participant would work closely with the faculty mentor or designee of the faculty mentor (graduate student or postdoc) on an authentic research project. It is expected that the SURE participant would move from research dependence and toward research independence over the course of the 8-week program.

SURE - 2021

c/o Office of Undergraduate Research • 228 Arnold Hall • 650 Price St. • 650 Price St., Morgantown, WV  
26506-6702

Questions? SURE@mail.wvu.edu, (304)293-9354

- The SURE participant should be available for weekly or biweekly SURE workshops and career mentoring speakers. SURE participants are required to attend a certain number of events. Each SURE participant must submit an abstract, create a research presentation, and present it at the "2021 Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium" to be held during the week of July 26-30, 2021.
- To be eligible, student applicants must be:
  1. U.S. citizens or permanent residents
  2. College sophomores, juniors, or seniors as of the Fall 2021 semester.
  3. Enrolled at a West Virginia higher education institution or be a West Virginia State resident enrolled at an out-of-state college or university.
- Review of completed SURE applications will begin on March 3, 2021. The online application will be closed at 11:59 pm on March 3. Priority will be given to applications completed before the March 3 review date.
- All SURE participants will be registered for a one-credit hour research class that will run for the duration of the program. This course will include online assignments as well as attendance at periodic workshops and seminars. All SURE participants are required to pay the tuition and fees associated with this one-credit hour research class.
- The program begins on Tuesday June 1, 2021 and runs for 9 weeks until the end on Friday July 30, 2021. Participants are required to research full-time for at least 8 TOTAL WEEKS during the 9-week program. The actual dates of research within the 9-week period do not matter (*i.e.*, if you or your SURE participant need to take time off in the middle of July, that is perfectly acceptable) as long as participants (i) carry out research for 8 weeks within that time period and (ii) are present for the first day of the program and during the last week of the program (July 26-30, 2021).
- The SURE program begins with one day of training (safety, library resources etc.) and employee processing on Tuesday June 1, 2021. **Training day attendance is mandatory for participants.**
- The SURE program “officially” ends the day after culminating research presentation at the “Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium 2021” during the week of July 26-30, 2021. Family, friends, faculty research mentor, graduate students, postdocs etc. are invited to the symposium. **Symposium participation and attendance is mandatory for SURE participants.**
- SURE participants will need to find their own place to live in or near Morgantown. However, a limited amount of dorm room space is available.

- SURE participants will, under no circumstances, be allowed to have another job or take summer classes (besides the one-credit hour research class) while they are taking part in the SURE research experience.

To summarize, responsibilities of a SURE participant assigned to research with you are:

1. Participant will research for eight weeks during the summer (June 1-July 30, 2021).
2. Participant will research an average of 40 hours per week.
3. Participant will not have another job or participate in another summer course.
4. Participant will attend the orientation on Tuesday June 1, 2021.
5. Participant will participate and complete all components of the one-credit hour research course (including any online assignments).
6. Participant is responsible for paying all fees and tuition associated with the one-credit hour research course according to WVU policy.
7. Participant will abide by all SURE and all West Virginia University rules and regulations.
8. Participant will be paid a stipend of \$4,000 for his/her summer research.
9. Participant will attend and present his/her research findings at the “Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium 2021” during the week of July 26-30, 2021.

Funding for the 2021 WVU SURE Site was obtained, in part, from:

- the West Virginia Research Challenge Fund through a grant from the Division of Science and Research, Higher Education Policy Commission;
- the WVU Colleges of Business & Economics, Creative Arts, and Education and Human Services; Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences; Eberly College of Arts and Sciences; Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources; Health Sciences Center; the Department of Biology; the C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry; the Provost’s Office and Research Corporation along with administrative resources from
- the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Honors College.