

## SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (SURE) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FACT SHEET

SURE is for undergraduate students interested in attending **graduate school** and who are passionate about research/creative work within their discipline or a related discipline. Students interested in research as a career are especially encouraged to apply.

- The SURE program is open to ***all*** majors at WVU including: creative arts, humanities, social sciences and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).
- To be eligible, applicants must be:
  1. College sophomores, juniors, or seniors as of the fall semester following their participation in the SURE summer program.
  2. Enrolled at a West Virginia higher education institution or be a West Virginia State resident enrolled at an out-of-state college or university.
- The online application typically opens in December and closes during the first week of March in the following year. Review of completed SURE applications starts as soon as applications close. A **COMPLETE** application includes the **online application** and the **letter of support from your faculty mentor**. *We strongly encourage applicants to begin their applications well in advance of the priority deadline and to give their recommenders at least two weeks' notice before the submission date.*
- Selected participants complete research at West Virginia University for 8 weeks during the summer under the direction of a WVU faculty research mentor and a graduate or post-doctoral mentor. Participants are expected to research full-time (average of 40 hours per week or 320 hours over the course of 8 weeks).
- 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 typically begins in the final week of May and concludes in the last week of July. Exact dates will be announced when applications open. 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

SURE

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that time period and (ii) are present for the first day of the program and during the last week of the program.

- The SURE program begins with one day of orientation, which is **mandatory for participants.**
- The SURE program “officially” ends the day after the culminating research presentation at the Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium. Family, friends, faculty research mentor, graduate students, postdocs etc. are invited to the symposium. **Symposium participation and attendance is mandatory for SURE participants.**
- If selected, participants will be given a **\$5000** award for their 8 weeks of research.
- SURE participants will need to find their own place to live in or near Morgantown. Limited dorm room space is available (see [summer housing](#)).
- SURE participants will not 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.
- If you are a non-WVU student and you have been selected to participate in the SURE program, you will need to apply to WVU as a “visiting student” and pay the visiting student fee (see <http://admissions.wvu.edu/admissions/transient>). More information on how to apply for and pay for visiting status will be sent upon your acceptance into the SURE program.
- To summarize, **required elements** of the SURE experience are:
  - 1) Total of 8 weeks of full-time research (average of 320 hours)
  - 2) Enroll in the one-credit hour research class
  - 3) Attendance at the one-day orientation
  - 4) Research presentation during the Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium
  - 5) Not hold another job or take summer classes (besides the 1-credit hour research class) while taking part in the SURE research experience.

Funding for the WVU SURE Site is typically obtained, in part, from:

- West Virginia Research Challenge Fund through a grant from the Division of Science and Research, Higher Education Policy Commission;
- WVU Colleges of Creative Arts; Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design; Eberly College of Arts and Sciences; Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources; Health Sciences Center
- WVU Provost’s Office and Research Corporation along with administrative resources from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Honors College.
- WVU Foundation

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