

## 2021 SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (SURE) 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.
- The SURE program is open to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and non-STEM majors. Limited funding is available to support students in non-STEM majors (e.g., business, education, creative arts, and humanities).
- To be eligible, 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 may be closed at midnight on March 3. Priority will be given to applications completed before the March 3 review 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 (minimum of 40 hours per week).
- 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 professor 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 will begin with one day of training (safety, library resources etc.) and employee processing on Tuesday June 1, 2021. **Training day attendance is mandatory.**
- The SURE program “officially” ends the day after the culminating research presentation at the “Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium 2021” during the week of July 26-30, 2021. Family, friends, research professor, etc. are invited to this symposium. **Symposium participation and attendance is mandatory for SURE participants.** **If you fail to attend and participate in the symposium, you will receive a letter grade of “F” for the one-credit research class and will forfeit your stipend payment.**
- If selected, participants will be given a \$4,000 stipend (split into payments) for their 8 weeks of research.
- 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 (see [summer housing](#)).
- 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.
- 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 from June 1-July 30, 2021
  - 2) one-credit hour research class
  - 3) attendance at the one-day training/processing on Tuesday June 1, 2021
  - 4) participation and research presentation during the “Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium 2021” week of July 26-30, 2021.

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

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- 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; and the C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry; Provost’s Office and Research Corporation along with administrative resources from the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Honors College.

SURE - 2021

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