LSAMP Undergraduate Research Program

SPRING 2014

LSAMP Undergraduate Research Program

Under the auspices of the University System of Maryland and the National Science Foundation, the University of Maryland College Park Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Undergraduate Research Program (LSAMP URP) is committed to (1) fostering a diverse and interactive science community; (2) broadening minority participation in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematical (STEM) fields; (3) encouraging undergraduate research, and (4) increasing the number of advanced degrees obtained by minority students.

Program Components

Research

Participants conduct a scientific research project with a faculty member in the University of Maryland’s College of Computer, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, A. James Clark School of Engineering or College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. During this research experience, participants perform original research, prepare scientific reports, and present their research at the end of the academic year. The goal of the research component is to equip students with the necessary tools to successfully complete a research project in their desired fields of study and present it to a range of audiences.

Graduate School Preparation

One of the objectives of the LSAMP program is to encourage students to pursue advanced degrees in the STEM fields. The goal of the graduate school preparation component is to show students how to prepare for graduate school and submit a complete and thorough application highlighting their undergraduate achievements and aspirations.

Learning Community and Outreach Initiatives

The LSAMP Undergraduate Research Program will offer a strong and supportive learning community of students, faculty, and staff collaborating to develop and enhance student’s leadership, professional, and communication skills in addition to assisting in their research project and studies. This community will also offer ongoing career and academic guidance.

Program Benefits:

- Student stipends of $2,500.00 per year ($1,250 per semester)
- Faculty-student partnership to conduct cutting-edge research in the STEM fields
- Access to available summer research opportunities and professional conferences
- Research preparation tools such as scientific writing, presentations, and professional development workshops
- Graduate school preparation workshops
- Possible graduate school visits to surrounding universities or research facility visit
- Research course offered by the University of Maryland College Park

Program Eligibility:

- Full-time student at the University of Maryland College Park
- Sophomore, Junior or Senior in the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS), A. James Clark School of Engineering, or the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Be a U.S. Citizen or U.S. Permanent Resident
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8

Expectations of Participants

- Maintain a GPA of 2.8 or more
- Conduct research with a University of Maryland College Park CMNS, Engineering or Agriculture faculty member
- Devote about 8-10 hours per week to the research project
- Produce and submit a written research project report, approved by the faculty advisor and present research at culminating symposium
- Participate in all LSAMP URP activities and workshops
- Participate in seminars or colloquia given by CMPS, Clark School of Engineering or College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Application Instructions

Complete the LSAMP Undergraduate Research Program application packet consisting of:

- Application Form
- Personal Essay and Statement of Research Interests
- Program commitment and signature

Submit the following additional materials:

- Letter of recommendation from research mentor or professor who is familiar with your performance as a student and/or potential researcher. You should print out the recommendation form and submit it to your recommender.
- Official transcript
- Résumé
- Citizenship documentation: copy of US Birth Certificate, US Passport or US Permanent Residency card

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name ___________________________ First Name ___________________________ M.I.

Gender: Male     Female     University ID:_________________________ Status: ____________

(Fr, So, Jr, Sr)

Major: _________________    Cum. GPA: ______________  Expected Graduation Date: _____________

Ethnicity:

_____ American Indian

_____ Black or African American

_____ Pacific Islander

_____ Other (please specify)

Asian or Asian American

Hispanic or Latino/a

White or Caucasian

Citizenship Status: ______ US Citizen _______ Permanent Resident

Address:

____________________________________ __________________________________

Street       City  State  ZIP

____________________________________ __________________________________

Home Phone  Cell Phone

____________________________________ __________________________________

Primary email  Alternate email

A. James Clark School of Engineering  Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering
Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation

Undergraduate Research Program

APPLICATION ESSAYS

Personal Essay
Write at least a 250-word essay to answer the following questions:
(1) Why should you be chosen as an LSAMP Undergraduate Research Program participant?
(2) What are your expectations of the program?
(3) What are your academic and career goals and how can the LSAMP Undergraduate Research Program help you accomplish your goals?

Research Interests
Write at least a 250-word essay to answer the following question:
If you could conduct research in any area or on any topic, what would you choose? Include your motivation behind doing this research, how you would go about executing the research, and how this research would contribute to the scientific community.

PROGRAM COMMITMENT AND SIGNATURE
I certify that all parts of this application packet are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that submission of false information may be sufficient for denial of admission.

Upon acceptance into the LSAMP Undergraduate Research Program, I will fully participate in research and all program activities from the start date of the program to the end of the program. Failure to do so may be sufficient cause for LSAMP to forfeit payment of my stipend or terminate my participation in the program.

Applicant Signature  ________________________________  Date  _________________
RECOMMENDATION FORM

Name of Applicant: ________________________________________________________________

I waive my right of access to this recommendation letter: ___ yes ___ no

The following section is to be completed by recommender

Name of Recommender: _____________________________________________________________

Position/Title: ____________________________________________________________________

Department: ______________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: __________________ Email Address: ________________________________

Are you the applicant's current research mentor?  Yes  No  N/A

Have you offered this student a research placement for the spring 2014 semester?  Yes  No  N/A

The student above is applying to the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Undergraduate Research Program at the University of Maryland College Park. The undergraduate research program is committed to:

- Fostering a diverse and interactive science community
- Broadening minority participation in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematical (STEM) fields
- Encouraging undergraduate research
- Increasing the number of advanced degrees obtained by minority students

Please indicate in what capacity you have worked with the student and provide an assessment of the student’s educational talent and commitment. Please give us your candid opinion of the student’s potential to conduct undergraduate research and pursue graduate studies.

Please attach your assessment on a separate page and return it to:

Mrs. Taifa Simpson, LSAMP Program Director
University of Maryland College Park
Center for Minorities in Science and Engineering
1131 Glenn Martin Hall
College Park, MD 20742

email: tsimpson@umd.edu
fax: 301-314-9867

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Taifa Simpson at tsimpson@umd.edu

__________________________________________  ______________________________
Recommender Signature  Date

Application Deadline: January 15, 2014