

SURE 2024 Program Summer Undergraduate Research Experiences Guidelines

The Summer Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE) program seeks applications from students interested in pursuing an intensive research experience. SURE is open to all ISU undergraduates who intend to enroll in classes at ISU in Fall 2024. The program typically engages about 35 students, of which roughly a third are rising sophomores (students who just completed their freshman year), a third are rising juniors, and a third are seniors. Students selected to participate in SURE have usually completed at least one year of coursework in the discipline before beginning their research experience.

RESEARCH COMMITMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP

Students spend ten weeks during the summer engaged in intensive research under the direction of a faculty mentor. The SURE 2024 program is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, May 22 and end on Friday, August 2. Alternate beginning and ending dates must be agreed to by the research student and faculty mentor. However, a total of ten weeks effort is generally expected.

Students will be awarded a \$3,500 scholarship for full-time effort (~40 hrs/wk) or a \$1,750 scholarship for half-time effort (~20 hrs/wk). Full-time research students should consider the experience their principal source of income for the summer. Students who have significant employment outside the SURE program should not expect to receive a full-time scholarship. Students may hold a part-time job, in addition to their full-time scholarship, but their work hours for that job should be largely limited to evenings and weekends.

All SURE researchers, including students and faculty, meet every Friday throughout the program for a seminar series at which students give brief presentations on their research focus and progress. The students also present their work at the SURE 2024 Research Symposium to be held on August 1. SURE students are encouraged to continue their research during the 2024-25 academic year and to present the results of their effort at regional and/or national research symposia.

RESEARCH AND SUMMER CLASSES

Students who wish to take summer classes should not apply for full-time scholarships. Students on half-time scholarships generally have sufficient time outside the research laboratory to take one class on campus in each of the two summer sessions (Summer IA and IB). The student should discuss his or her interest in summer coursework with their faculty research mentor before registering for any summer classes.

Students may register for transcript credit for their summer research experience, typically earning up to one credit hour per 100 hours in the research laboratory. There are other

obligations (such as formal oral and written reports) that may be required of the student, and the student is responsible for paying tuition for this credit. Interested students should speak to both their faculty mentor and academic advisor.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

SURE scholarships are awarded via a competitive selection process. Students who seek to participate in SURE are strongly encouraged to meet potential research mentors before applying for the program and discuss participation in projects of interest. Students who do not meet with any research mentor are rarely selected to participate in the program.

Each student completes an application form listing their preference of up to three projects. Application forms are due to the Chemistry and Physics Department Office (Science 035) by noon, Friday, February 16.

Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of interest, qualification, and academic performance. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by Friday, March 8.

Projects and application forms are posted at the following URL:

https://www.indstate.edu/cas/chem_phys/summer-undergraduate-research-experiences-sure-program