

## **Request for Proposals: Summer Student Research Program**

### **Overview/Purpose**

The Summer Student Research Program (SSRP) supports independent student research and scholarly activity each summer. The program is open to students from all disciplines and is structured to enrich the educational experience in several ways.

First, SSRP enables students to engage in original research and creative activity under the guidance of a faculty mentor. This opportunity to work closely with an expert gives the student a chance to expand their knowledge of a chosen academic discipline. Second, because the research is independent of the structured classroom setting, students experience the excitement and challenges of applying their knowledge and skills to solve new problems. Finally, students draw on their general studies coursework and learn about research in other disciplines, broadening their understanding of the differences and connections between various fields of study.

The program begins in Mid-May, with all participating students attending an overnight field trip. By late May, they have begun work in earnest, meeting with their mentors on a regular basis and participating in weekly meetings with other SSRP student scholars. These discussions foster awareness of research issues outside of a particular field of study, including topics such as research ethics, the use of statistics, or the creative process in the arts. Meetings end by the beginning of August, and students must complete a research paper before the beginning of the new academic year. Students then present their work on posters and in oral presentations in the Fall Student Research Symposium.

### **Eligibility and Requirements**

To be eligible for the SSRP, students must meet the following criteria:

- be a full-time student at UNK in Spring and Fall 2021
- be eligible to work in the United States
- plan to graduate not before December 2021
- be able to participate in field trips (late May, 2021 – COVID pending); attend weekly meetings every Wednesday from 9 am to 11 am May 22 through July 31; and present at the Fall Student Research Symposium in October 2021
- must be able to commit 20 hours per week in June, July, and August to conduct their research and complete their research paper

### **Process/Application Documents**

Applications are due via *NURamp*: [nuramp.nebraska.edu](http://nuramp.nebraska.edu)

### **NU Ramp Instructions**

- Log into NURamp with your easi credentials.
- Select “Add New IC Application” from the “Quick Add Actions Box.”
- Select “SSRP 2021 Application” from the drop-down menu.
- Click the Start Application button.
- Form Specifics Enter:
  - Student
    - Student name
    - Degree Status (click Graduate or Undergraduate Student)
    - NUID
  - Faculty Advisor
    - Faculty Advisor name
    - Faculty Advisor’s department
  - Project Information
    - Click SSRP Application
    - Title of Proposal
    - Project Category
  - Compliance (Must click an option for each question to submit)
    - Human Subjects
    - Animals involved
    - Bio hazards

A complete application must include the following documents:

- The project description has a 500-word limit. Projects should not be continuations of research begun during the academic year, although they may be related. Projects must be completed by mid-August (before the Fall semester begins). They should use the methods of the student's academic discipline and have a reasonable chance of making an original contribution to the field.
- The essay should explain the student's interest in original research or creative activity. This essay will be uploaded into the application system.
- The mentor's letter should describe how this project would be an original contribution to the field and affirm the student's capacity for doing the work. Mentor's should also describe any summer plans that would affect their presence in Kearney. Contact Matthew R. Bice if you wish to discuss this element.

Final Note: Once Students submit their application, Faculty Advisor’s will receive an email confirmation that will require them to submit application support and documentation of scholarship/creative activities. A fully submitted application will has to be submitted by the student and approved by the faculty advisor.

### **Notification**

Deadline: February 4, 2021

Decision: Successful applicants will be notified by the end of February/early March.

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