

# **Supervised Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE)**

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions in response to the SURE Request for Applications (RFA) as of **March 23, 2016**.

Last Day to answer questions: **April 1, 2016**

**Proposals Due: April 15, 2016**

**Question:**

I read the information about the SURE program for women and underrepresented minorities. Do minorities include both women and men? Our lab has interviewed a male from Venezuela, would he be an eligible candidate for SURE program?

**Answer:**

The SURE RFA notes that eligibility is limited to women and individuals who are considered underrepresented minorities by NSF (including men): Black or African-American; Hispanic or Latino; American Indian or Alaskan Native; Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; or those students with disabilities (e.g., hearing, visual, or mobility impairments).

**Question:**

I'd like to mentor a student on a research project and apply for SURE funding to have her supported, but I'm wondering if the project would be appropriate for the program. I would have the student work on mathematical modeling of an invasive species, collection of experimental data on growth rates and vital processes - both to provide a quantitative characterization of this species (which is largely unknown), and to calibrate the model as a tool to be used in simulation studies to make predictions and to study possible control measures.

While the study of invasive species is obviously far removed from laser-based 3d metal printing, it could be argued that there is overlap with methods and approaches.

Would it be appropriate for the SURE program?

**Answer:**

Board staff are not allowed to make suggestions or assist proposers regarding the suitability or appropriateness of the themes and scope of proposed projects. Per the RFP, the proposed research must be relevant to the themes outlined in Section A.

**Question:**

I am reading the SURE announcement and would like to know if the program is limited to activities related to the Consortium for Innovation in Manufacturing and Materials (CIMM) or whether other STEM disciplines (specifically: Biology) are also eligible for application.

**Answer:**

Per the RFP, the proposed research must be relevant to the themes outlined in Section A. Biology would not be eligible under this criteria.

Question:

I am reading the SURE announcement and would like to know if the program is limited to activities related to the Consortium for Innovation in Manufacturing and Materials (CIMM) or whether other STEM disciplines (specifically: Biology) are also eligible for application.

Answer:

Per the RFP, the proposed research must be relevant to the themes outlined in Section A. It is not open to all STEM disciplines.

Question:

I know an undergraduate who would do well in this program (chem eng, rising sophomore, has been working in my lab as a freshman). However, I am concerned about my eligibility to be her mentor as I am not a "CIMM faculty".

Answer:

Faculty mentors do not need to be CIMM faculty, but the proposed research must be relevant to the themes outlined in Section A of the RFP.

Question:

If a student already received a bachelor degree but is a full time student during the SURE time (may pursue a different degree or a degree in a different field), is this student eligible?

Answer:

If a student is considered an undergraduate by the institution during the SURE grant period, then he/she is eligible.