



RICE BIOCHEMISTRY & CELL BIOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

GUIDELINES

I. Program Goals.

The Rice Department of Biochemistry & Cell Biology Summer Research Institute (SRI) provides intensive, mentored research experiences for Rice undergraduates who are interested in pursuing post-baccalaureate graduate education. In addition to the primary research project, the scientific program includes research and career development seminars, a student journal club, and a concluding symposium in which all students give presentations about their research. The goal of this multifaceted summer experience is to provide students the research and communication skills to prepare them for independent, graduate-level scholarship.

II. Admissions Criteria.

Criteria for participation in the Rice SRI:

- Current Rice undergraduates at the time of application and participation
- GPA 3.0 or greater
- Letter of support from sponsoring faculty member who will provide a summer research stipend
- Participation in at least 240 hours of research during the summer

Students may meet the minimum requirement of 240 research hours with 12 weeks participation at 20 hours per week, 6 weeks participation at 40 hours, or any other work schedule that has been approved by the sponsoring faculty research advisor.

Students with one year of experience in the sponsoring lab and a GPA of 3.5 or above may be selected for the Advanced SRI program. The advanced program students organize and present in the student journal club (one paper per advanced student, per summer), and their symposium presentations will be oral instead of poster presentations. Mentoring will be provided to assist students in preparing for both poster and oral presentations.

III. Selection of Sponsoring Faculty Research Advisor.

The student must secure a letter of support from a sponsoring faculty research advisor, stating that the faculty member has a summer project for the student in their laboratory and that they will provide the summer salary for the student's research during their participation in the summer institute. The student and sponsoring faculty member are responsible for setting a work schedule that complies with the 240 hour minimum for total research hours performed within the range of the program dates. It is allowable for the student and mentor to set a schedule that exceeds the 240 hour minimum, up to 40 hours per week maximum.

IV. Minimum Research and Attendance Requirements.

The student and sponsoring faculty member are responsible for setting a work schedule that complies with the 240 hour minimum for total research hours performed within the range of the program dates. It is allowable for the student and mentor to set a schedule that exceeds the 240 hour minimum, up to 40 hours per week maximum. In addition to the minimum research hours requirement, students must attend at least 6 of the weekly lunch meetings and must participate in the final research symposium. Attendance at social events is optional. A certificate of completion will be presented to all SRI students who meet the minimum requirements, with a separate designation for students who meet the requirements of the advanced program, and an online listing of our successful program alumni will also be maintained.

V. Exceptions.

Exceptions will be considered when requested by the sponsoring faculty research mentor (to receive proper consideration, the request should not come from the student). Such exceptions might include (but are not limited to) an exception for students with a GPA of 2.5 to 3.0, if the faculty member feels the student possesses other qualifying factors such as previous research experience, or a higher GPA in their major than overall; an exception to the minimum number of weekly meetings a student must attend if the research mentor believes the student has an unusual situation that qualifies as a legitimate schedule conflict; an exception to the mandatory participation in the final symposium as long as the student presents their summer research in the next spring RURS, but a medical excuse is required, or documentation from the sponsoring faculty that they consider the absence at the summer symposium unavoidable, and they deem that participation in the spring RURS is an allowable substitute requirement.

VI. Dismissal.

The department chair or the sponsoring faculty member may dismiss the student from the program at any time if the student is not fulfilling the minimum requirements, or if the sponsoring faculty determines that the student is not exerting sufficient effort.

The 2010 program dates are **Monday, May 10 to Friday, July 30.**