Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP)

Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning
ugresearch@niu.edu
www.niu.edu/srop
What is SROP?

- Summer Research Opportunities Program
- One of NIU’s newest research programs (started in 2013)
- SROP gives students the opportunity to conduct paid, faculty-mentored research during the summer months (June to August)
What will students do?

• Learn what research looks like in their field of study
• Learn how to write a formal research proposal
• Gain experience working alongside talented faculty at NIU
• Attend professional and academic enrichment activities
• Live in on-campus housing (required) and receive meals & a stipend
Benefits

• Hands-on learning in the student’s field
• Connecting classroom to real life
• Professional development opportunities
• Networking and relationship building with peers and NIU faculty, staff, and alumni
• Communication and presentation skills
• Room and board is provided
• $3,500 stipend
What type of research can be done?

- SROP is not field-specific
- Students from any college can apply
- Not sure what type of research to conduct?
  - Ask a professor
  - Visit department websites for faculty profiles and research interests
- Last year students researched topics in a wide range of fields:
  - Business Administration
  - Mechanical Engineering
  - Biochemistry
  - Chemistry
  - Psychology
  - Sociology
  - History
  - Visual Communications
To participate in SROP you must:

- Be a full-time student enrolled at NIU
  - Sophomores with at least 30 credit hours, juniors, or seniors not graduating in August
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher
- Be committed to participate in the program for eight weeks (full-time; 40+ hours per week)
- Have a declared major
- No concurrent employment or summer coursework at the time of SROP
Program Expectations

• Participate in the eight-week program from mid June to early August, full-time (40+ hours per week)

• Present research or artistry project at the Summer Research Symposium

• Participate in all workshops and supplemental activities

• Openly communicate with OSEEL staff and faculty mentor

• Reside in provided on-campus housing (double occupancy)
Faculty Mentor Responsibilities

• Meet with student at regularly to create a plan to complete the proposed project
• Provide clear communication about the expectations of the project activities and your style of interaction
• Assist student with identifying research articles and related resources
• Provide honest, encouraging feedback to the student about progress
• Assist the student with preparation of project materials for presentation
• Attend the Summer Research Symposium on August 5
• Notify OSEEL staff of any problems in the mentoring relationship
Online applications open the first day of the spring semester
Complete applications must be submitted by the last Friday in February
Interviews take place on a rolling basis through the end of March
Notification of acceptance is sent out by April
The program follows the NIU summer session (begins the third week of June, ends the first Friday in August)
The Summer Research Symposium is on the last day of the program
How does SROP work?

1. Find a professor(s) in your field you’d like to work with
2. Meet with him or her and share your idea and interest in SROP
3. Complete Faculty Mentor Agreement Form
4. Complete the online application here: http://go.niu.edu/OSEELapplications
1. Biographical and Personal Application
   - General application information
   - Personal and academic information
   - Extracurricular involvement, awards received, and previous research experience
Contents of the SROP Application

2. Two personal essays
   1. Tell us why you want to participate in SROP and how SROP will benefit you
   2. Tell us your specific research interests, skills needed to conduct research, how the research relates to your career interests

3. Faculty Mentor Agreement
The Internal Review Board (IRB) ensures that all research done through NIU follows specific guidelines and does not endanger any of the participants. Depending on your research, you may need to undergo the IRB review process regarding one of these three types:

- **Biosafety**: research involving recombinant DNA, and/or pathogenic substances
- **IUCAC**: research involving live, vertebrate animals to prove that the animals are not put in any unnecessary harm.
- **Human Subjects**: research involving human participants (this includes conducting surveys)

For more information: [http://www.niu.edu/orci/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/orci/index.shtml)
Questions?

• For more information, please contact:

Office of Student Engagement & Experiential Learning
Altgeld 100
815-753-8154
ugresearch@niu.edu
www.niu.edu/engagedlearning