

President's Undergraduate Research Award - Information



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<http://www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu>

What is PURA?

- Competitive funding for undergraduate research
- Opportunity for one-on-one work with faculty mentor and/or with research team
- Two components:
 - Up to \$1,500 salary awards to student/faculty teams for student's hourly wages (approx. 150 hours)
 - Up to \$1,000 travel grants to present research work at national and international professional conferences
- Approximately 200 competitive awards per year, 3 periods (Fall, Spring, Summer semesters)

Requirements

- Undergraduate Student in Good Standing (GPA > 2.0)
- Register for the free, audit 2698 or 4698 (Research Assistantship) in school of mentor
 - Use this class any time you are paid for research!
- Faculty mentor is required; or GTRI research scientist
 - Post-doc or graduate student may be co-mentor
- Course credit (for a grade) is not allowed for the same project funded by PURA
- One salary award per academic year (summer, fall, spring)
- Travel awards can be granted within the same academic year

Step 1: CONNECT

- **Find a faculty mentor**
 - Talk to a professor whose class interested you
 - Visit the web sites of faculty – find 2-3 whose work interests you
 - Talk to your Undergraduate Coordinator or academic advisor – he or she may be able to steer you towards specific professors to speak with
- **Develop a project**
 - Typically, suitable for 1 semester of work
 - or*
 - Discuss a longer term project in which your PURA semester is one of several terms (some for credit, some for pay)

Step 2: WRITE

SALARY AWARD

- Complete a proposal on what you want to research (minimum of one page)
- Meet in person with faculty mentor to discuss project and proposal
- Student writes proposal
- QUALITY

Step 2: WRITE, cont'd

Things to include in SALARY proposal:

- Overview of proposed work
- Objective and goals for the semester
- Related work and any background you know about project
 - references
- Methods and techniques to be used, software to be used or developed, types of media or resources to be used
- How any past research in the same area that you participated in relates to this work

Step 2: WRITE, cont'd

Other information to include:

- Location of work if not at Georgia Tech
 - Names of people working with
 - How your faculty mentor will monitor work
- Name of any co-mentor who is a graduate student or post-doc
- If the project is within an undergraduate team setting describe your individual role and how it relates to the project as a whole

Examples of quality proposals:

<http://undergradresearch.gatech.edu/PURApplicationtipsrules.php>

Step 2: WRITE, cont'd

TRAVEL AWARD

- Complete a proposal
- Things to include in proposal:
 - Overview of the work to be presented
 - Information on presentation – conference name, locations, dates
 - Format of presentation (oral or poster)
 - Cost estimates (registration fee, airfare, hotel, food, rental car (if needed), etc.)
 - Cost-sharing available or applied for
- Submit at least one month before trip
 - Wait until paper is accepted to apply
 - International travel – allow at least two months

Step 3: APPLY

- Submit an application online at:
<http://undergradresearch.gatech.edu/funding.php>

(Read instructions carefully!)

- Recommendation from faculty mentor required
 - Online form available & preferred (*plan ahead*)
 - Formal letter emailed to UROP is acceptable
- Criteria for evaluating applications
 - **PROPOSAL, PROPOSAL, PROPOSAL**
 - Participation in Research Option
 - Past research
 - GPA & class standing
 - Past PURA award status

Step 3: APPLY, cont'd

- **Application Deadlines**
 - **Spring 2009 – Due October 20th**
 - **Summer 2009 - Due March 4th**
 - **Fall 2009 – Due May 18th**
- Both application form and faculty recommendation due same day (*plan ahead*)
- Awards announced approx. 1 month later

Step 4: RESEARCH

- Work toward your research goals and objectives
- Meet often with your faculty mentor for direction
- Only stupid question is one that isn't asked!
- Get to know the graduate students and post-docs in your lab – they will be great resources, as will upper-level undergraduate students

Step 4: RESEARCH, cont'd

Final report due last day of finals of semester

- Submit report online at PURA website
- Report should be at a minimum 2 pages – longer reports are accepted and desired
 - Already writing a report for your mentor? Just send it!
- Report should be written by student
- Online survey evaluation of the experience
- Reports for both travel and salary awards

Contact Us!

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program

<http://www.undergradresearch.gatech.edu>

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