

Call for Proposals
Research and Creative Experience for Undergraduates (RCEU) Program
Summer 2014

Program Description

The purpose of the University of Alabama in Huntsville RCEU program is:

- To support research and/or creative work experiences for undergraduate students in all fields of study.
- To foster cooperation between students and researchers in a research or creative endeavor, and to expose the student to academic scholarly work via active participation in a research, creative, or scholarly project.
- To assist in furthering UAH's research activities by helping to provide opportunities for new and ongoing areas of study and creative work.

Students undertake activities within a research or creative work project typically lasting for 10 to 12 weeks in the summer, under the direct supervision of a UAH full-time faculty member or researcher (including lecturers and term faculty appointments). The work hours correspond to a full-time job (approx 32-40 hours per week), and the student receives a stipend of \$3,200.

Example activities include laboratory experiments, musical compositions, field studies, clinical projects, engineering experiments and projects, theoretical work, human behavior studies, writing projects, and visual art projects.

At the end of the program, students are expected to present their work in one or more public forums and submit a written report. The mentor is expected to complete a survey and write a review of the student's performance and the educational benefit received by the student, to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

The program is funded through the UAH President's office, the Provost's office, the Vice President for Research office, and other sources as they become available. The Faculty Senate Finance and Resources Committee reviews RCEU proposals and makes individual awards. We anticipate that 15-20 proposals will be accepted, pending availability of funds. The committee strives to provide an equitable distribution of awards between colleges and departments.

Proposal Process

Proposals must be submitted jointly by a student and the faculty or research mentor. All proposals must have an identified student with whom the mentor wishes to work in the summer. The student must also provide a brief statement of interest. The content of the proposal is outlined below. Students that participate for the first time will be preferred.

The schedule is as follows:

- **February 28, 11:59pm – deadline for proposals for summer 2014**
- March 1-15 – evaluate proposals and send out conditional acceptances
- March 18 – confirmed acceptances and funding expected

The proposals will be evaluated by Committee based on the following selection criteria, in descending order of importance:

<u>Criterion:</u>	<u>For example:</u>
1. Degree of benefit to the student	What will the student get to do? What will the student learn?
2. Quality of mentor supervision	What will be the extent of collaboration between the student and mentor? With whom will the student meet and what will be the extent of educational interaction between the student and mentor? What will be the frequency of interaction between the student and mentor? How, and with what frequency, will the student receive feedback regarding the educational component of the program?
3. Quality of the student's contribution	In what way will the student's effort contribute to the project? How much time will be devoted to learning instrumentation and technique versus actual experimentation or creative work?
4. Student qualifications	Why was this student chosen? Does the student have the preparation (coursework, grades) to learn and do the work? Why does the student want to participate in the project?

How will it help the student achieve his or her academic and/or career goals?

5. The statement by the student must address the following?

Describe the objectives of the project?

How does this project advance your educational and career objectives?

Describe your preparation up to this point for this project.

Are you able to commit a minimum of 32 hours per week for the duration of the project?

Please be sure to address each of the criteria in the proposal. (Note: you do not necessarily have to answer all the clarifying example questions.)

Proposal Content

The maximum length of the proposal is 2 pages. The proposal must be submitted by email to the contact listed below. Use the following headings in the following order:

Faculty or Research Mentor – The Mentor’s name and complete contact information, including campus mailing address.

Student Information – Name, student number, major/minor department, undergraduate hours completed, GPA, and the rationale for your choice. African American Asian/Pacific Islander Caucasian/White Hispanic Native American

Student Statement of Interest – A brief statement (about ½ page or so) written by the student explaining why he/she would like to participate in the RCEU program, including how it might help him or her achieve academic and/or career goals. The student should also describe his/her preparation up to the point of application for this project. It is very important that the student describe his or her understanding of the time commitment to the project. The student should include a statement indicating that he or she is available to commit at least 32 hours per week to the project for the duration of the summer.

Project Summary – An overview of the project. Be sure to explain how the student’s work will fit into the project.

Student Duties – Make clear what the individual student will do during the work period. This section should show a clear benefit to the student such as using specialized equipment, learning new techniques, exposure to new environments above and beyond the normal classroom, coursework, or laboratory experience. Please give specific examples of these benefits. Describe any expected results and/or deliverables and when they are expected. If applicable, explain any deviation from the standard workload expectation of 10-12 weeks at 32-40 hours per week.

Mentor Supervision and Interaction – This section should explain the nature and frequency of supervision the student will receive, including your plan for where/how/when the student will be supervised, mentored, and evaluated. Please be specific in terms of both frequency and method of supervision/mentoring/evaluation. Indicate with whom the student will be working and reporting to during the work period.

Honors Thesis Applications

The Committee will give priority consideration for up to two (2) Honors Theses that also meet the RCEU criteria. Thesis/RCEU proposals must meet the criteria for an Honors Thesis and meet the criteria noted above for RCEU proposals in order to receive this consideration. If a proposal meets the Honors Thesis criteria but is not equivalent in quality to other RCEU proposals, this priority consideration may be waived at the discretion of the committee. It is our hope that priority consideration will encourage honors students and their faculty mentors to submit RCEU-quality Honors proposals for this program. This priority consideration is not a guarantee of funding. Please contact the Honors Program Director, Dr. Harry Delugach (harry.delugach@uah.edu), for details regarding an honors thesis.

Untenured assistant faculty members and faculty without external funding are encouraged to apply.

Contact:

Proposals should be emailed to Charles Hickman, Charles.Hickman@uah.edu, with the subject heading RCEU, by the deadline set out above. Any questions should also be directed to Professor Hickman at 256-824-6598.