

REU Info Meeting, 18 Jan 2023 - Answers to Questions

Q: Do people get cut/drop from the program half-way through the 10 weeks?

A: No people do not get cut half way.

Q: Can you apply to both Physics and bioChemistry REU?

A: Yes, we are separate programs.

Q: What are the apartments like? Do students share bedrooms?

A: Yes, 2 students per bedroom. The apartments are not the fanciest, but they are directly next to campus, and very close to the physics building. They have wifi, but campus also has free wifi available to everyone. The complex you are staying at has laundry, parking, showers, etc. We provide all of your cooking utensils.

Q: If you are graduating in spring 2023, but plan on attending graduate school in the fall 2023, can you still be considered for a position?

A: You must still be an undergrad in Fall 2023, in order to participate. That's an NSF rule.

Q: How many students typically apply?

A: We typically have about 200-300 applicants, so it's often extremely competitive.

Q: Is admission to the program rolling? Or do all notifications come on the same day?

A: The first wave of admissions to the program go out on the same day. However, some applicants decline, so offers will go out until all of our slots are full. Once all of the slots are full, we will send out an email notifying everyone that they were not accepted.

Q: As I am applying as a freshman, to what extent is prior research experience necessary for acceptance to the program?

A: It depends a lot on the mentor. Some really like students that have a lot of experience; others look at other factors first. In general, I think freshmen will be at a little bit of a disadvantage, but we have certainly had some in the past.

Q: When do notifications go out?

A: The first wave of acceptances will go out a week or so after the deadline. Those offers are required to give a response by the first week of March, and by then we will send out the next wave of acceptances. This will continue until potentially the end of March, maybe April.

Q: If the research done was not necessarily in the fields you chose and wish to pursue, does that make the research less valuable?

A: Assuming you're talking about previous research experience that you list on your application? I think the field of research is not always a huge factor. Math and sometimes programming background can be important though, with some mentors.

Q: Are we permitted to travel home for special dates like weddings or other obligations?

A: Yes for sure. You may need to arrange with your mentor if you miss during the week, as each participant must reach 40 hours of work a week, but you are welcome to leave on the weekends.

Q: Is there exactly one student per mentor?

A: Roughly speaking. But some mentors might have more than one student. And some potential mentors might end up with no students.

Q: If I'm applying as a freshman, but my course load/skill set is equal to a sophomore, does that put me at a disadvantage?

A: Although seniority does play a factor, skill sets also play a major role. If an underclassman is more advanced in skills, some professors may prioritize that. It's kind of a case by case basis. Freshmen aren't normally prioritized, but they have been accepted in the past.