Applying to the UMN MRSEC REU Program

Summer 2020
Requirements

- Completion of online application form
- 1 page statement of purpose
- CV or resume
- Transcript
- Letter of Recommendation
  - 1 letter is required
  - A second letter may be submitted at your discretion
Statement of Purpose

• MRSEC formatting guidelines
  – 1 page maximum
  – 12pt Times New Roman font
  – 1” margins on all sides
  – 4pt line spacing between paragraphs

• Focus on your interests, any research experience, and career goals. How do you expect/want a summer research experience to further your career goals?
• Why are you applying to UMN MRSEC REU specifically?
• You will also submit a resume and transcript - you may use the personal statement to highlight strengths, but don’t simply repeat information contained in those documents.
• Proofread!
Resume/CV

• Limit to one page
• Should be research/education focused
  – Highlight summer or academic year research
  – Student groups of academic clubs
  – Research equipment or technique experience (AFM, SEM, etc)
• Publications, presentations, posters, conference attendance
• Related work experience
• Exclude or limit attention to unrelated items
Transcript

• Submitted Electronically via online application form
• Unofficial transcripts are accepted
• Current through Spring 2020
  – Fall 2019 grades should be included if available at time of application
• If registration has been completed for Spring 2020 - include course list
Letter of Recommendation

• 1 letter required, 2 accepted
• Submitted electronically via application link
• Preferred sources
  – Research advisor
  – Professor of lab course in major
  – Research internship supervisor
What is not required

• There is no minimum GPA requirement
  – Technical GPA is more important than overall
  – Performance in recent terms is weighed more heavily than early performance

• No prior research experience is necessary

• There is no required class standing- i.e. freshman applicants may apply
  – Applicants must be registered in a degree program at time of participation

Applicants in all STEM majors are encouraged to apply
Application Deadline

• **Application Deadline: February 15**
• The application review process begins immediately after the deadline- late materials will not be reviewed.
  – Make sure all materials are submitted by 11:59PM CST on February 15
• Request letters of recommendation well in advance and double check that they have been submitted.
• Only complete applications will be reviewed