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