

Applying to the UMN MRSEC REU Program



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
- 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 or academic clubs
 - Research equipment or technique experience (AFM, SEM, etc)
- Publications, presentations, posters, conference attendance
- Related work/volunteer experience
- Exclude or limit attention to unrelated items



Transcript

- Submitted Electronically via online application form
- Unofficial transcripts are accepted and sometimes preferred- avoid sending official transcripts if issued as password protected .pdfs
- Grades for most recent semester should be included
- If registration has been completed for next Spring - include course list*
 - * It is useful to know what related courses you will have completed prior to the program in determining which research project you would be best prepared for



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
- Sources not recommended
 - HS Teachers
 - Non-STEM related work supervisors



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 are encouraged to 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

