

2016-2017 Presidential Undergraduate Research Scholars Program

The Presidential Undergraduate Research Scholars (PURS) program provides University of Oregon undergraduate students majoring in chemistry, physics, geological sciences or mathematics with a paid academic year research experience that runs parallel to a one credit PURS course that covers topics such as emerging science research, ethics, career preparation, research skills development, effective communication of research and grad school preparation.

Guidelines

1. Applicant must be a graduate from a high school within the state of Oregon.
2. Applicant must be a full-time student with a 3.0 GPA or higher.
3. Priority will be given to students that are first generation, low-income, minority, and/or from an underrepresented population in the sciences are encouraged to apply.
4. Applicant should have intentions to apply for graduate school with high potential to be accepted.
5. If for any reason a research fellow's circumstances change (e.g., due to exit from the University, loss of full-time student status, or the receipt of any grant or award that conflicts with the conditions of this fellowship) and the grantee is unable to meet the requirements of the program during the academic year for which it was granted, the position must be forfeited. PURS positions cannot be deferred.
6. Undergraduate students may receive only one PURS award during their undergraduate education.

Expectations

Upon notification of receipt of a PURS position, undergraduate students must sign an agreement outlining their commitment to:

- a. Conduct 10 hours of research per week throughout the academic year;
- b. enroll in the one credit PURS course for the fall, winter and spring term;
- c. attend at least two departmental/institute seminars per term and write a short summary of what was presented as part of the PURS course;
- d. present your research at the 2017 UO Undergraduate Symposium, sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Studies, on Thursday, May 18th, 2017;
- e. acknowledge the Presidential Undergraduate Research Scholars Program in any work resulting from research done during the program year;
- f. notify the Presidential Undergraduate Research Scholars administration of any publications, conference presentations, or other awards or fellowships that result from your research project; and
- g. notify the Presidential Undergraduate Research Scholars administration immediately of other support or any conflicts with the restrictions and conditions of this research program.

Application Instructions

The PURS program application requires you to describe your research experience and provide a candidate's statement in which you describe your interest in the PURS program.

1. **Research Experience (200 words maximum)**
Please describe your research experience to date. Include the names of faculty members you have worked with. If you have no research experience, please enter "n/a".

2. **Candidate's Statement (500 words maximum)**

The candidate's statement is your opportunity to describe your academic, personal and career interests; highlight your achievements to date; explain how participation in the PURS program aligns with your interests and goals; and describe why you are an excellent candidate for the position. Candidate's statement should be well-written, well-organized, reflective, thoughtful and free of spelling and grammatical errors.

3. **Unofficial Transcript:**

Submit unofficial copies of your UO transcript to urop@uoregon.edu.

4. **Two Letters of Recommendation:**

Applicants must request letters of recommendation from two faculty members familiar with the applicant's academic work and accomplishments. Faculty providing recommendations should submit their letters via email to: urop@uoregon.edu.

Deadline

All application materials, including the two letters of recommendation, must be submitted by the deadline listed on the PURS website.

All PURS applications are evaluated competitively as part of a single applicant pool.

All questions about the PURS program should be directed to Karl Reasoner at urop@uoregon.edu or (541) 346-8520.