

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences-Leadership Alliance

Summer Research Program

for Students from Historically Underrepresented Groups

The Columbia University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GSAS) is pleased to announce the Summer Research Program for undergraduates from historically underrepresented groups. The goal of the program is to prepare students for doctoral study in a particular area of interest. The program provides an opportunity for promising minority undergraduates to work with Columbia GSAS faculty in specific research areas. [Note: this program is not intended to provide preparation for professional schools (e.g. business, education, engineering, journalism, medical, law, social work).]

Program Description

The Summer Research Program (SRP) for undergraduates from historically underrepresented groups began at the Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) in 1989. Each summer since, promising undergraduate students from all over the United States have participated in an eight to ten week summer internship program conducting graduate-level research under the supervision of a Columbia University faculty mentor.

The program has a dual purpose: to expose underrepresented students to graduate-level academic research so that they can begin to view the academy as a viable and realistic career path and to address the shortage of underrepresented minorities in doctoral study.

The program's philosophy is that early exposure to research in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences fosters a deeper knowledge of the particular field and, in turn, encourages students to develop their interests into academic careers. Additionally, the program promotes and develops skills that are necessary for success in doctoral study as students receive an introduction to the rigors and pleasures of advanced academic work.

The academic standard set attempts to challenge students to elevate their performance in all phases of research to that of a graduate student in the same field. Thus, the program is designed to approximate graduate study, particularly in mentor relationships, scholarly research, and independent living.

The Academic Journey

In addition to taking part in research, SRP students will take part in a number of other opportunities including weekly seminars and workshops, symposia and a number of group activities both on and off campus.

Faculty & Research

Each student will undertake a discipline-appropriate summer research project in collaboration with an assigned faculty mentor. Many will find themselves integrated into ongoing research, working closely with faculty and graduate students.

Weekly Seminars & Workshops

In addition to taking part in research, interns will participate in weekly seminars and workshops. Topics include tutorials on the graduate school application process, oral presentation for symposia and the *Scholarly Journey* series, in which advanced Columbia graduate students, faculty and professionals with doctorate degrees share their intellectual biographies, offer advice and discuss opportunities in academia and the private sector. During the weekly seminars, students will have regular opportunities to discuss their research projects.

Meetings

Meetings with staff and mentors provide an informal setting for discussions of varied topics, such as opportunities in academia as well as the nature and rewards of a career in academics and/or research.

Symposia

Students will present their research to faculty, graduate students and administrators at the *Columbia Symposium*. Students will also attend the annual national *Leadership Alliance Summer Symposium*. The Alliance is a consortium of colleges and universities, including Columbia, committed to the goal of increasing the number of minorities in higher education.

Application, letters, and transcripts must be post marked no later than February 20

Mail applications to: Office of Minority Affairs & Special Programs /SRP, 102 Low Memorial Library, 535 W. 116th Street, MC 4304, Columbia University, NY 10027. Tel. (212) 854-3791, e-mail: bsn2107@columbia.edu

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INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

Application Requirements

The program seeks students who have a passion for scholarly or scientific research and demonstrate academic promise in research and/or teaching in the sciences and selected disciplines within the humanities and social sciences.

- Completed application form
- Two evaluation letters from faculty
- Official academic transcript(s) (from all undergraduate institutions)
- Statement of purpose
(3 pages max. See statement guidelines)
- Resume
(Include honors, awards, & other recognitions)

Eligibility

- Students entering Junior or Senior year (rising sophomores and juniors)
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- 3.0 grade point average (GPA) or higher
- Potential for doctoral study in proposed field; transcript should demonstrate course work in proposed area of research .

Consideration is given to applicants from historically underrepresented groups that include but are not limited to:

- Black/African American
- Dominican
- Mexican/Chicano(a)
- Native American/Alaska Native
- Puerto Rican

Fellowship

Accommodations: Housing will be provided on Columbia's Morningside Heights campus.

Transportation: Transportation costs, up to \$300, will be covered if necessary. Local transportation will not be covered.

Stipend: Students will receive a stipend of \$3000 to help cover living expenses, including meals. **NOTE: No meal plan is provided.**

Guidelines for Statement of Purpose

Please provide a statement of purpose that is no longer than three typed, double-spaced pages. In your statement, please address all of the following questions/issues:

- a) What is your motivation for applying to the Summer Research Program?
- b) Discuss previous research or academic project(s):
 - Issue/question you examined and what makes it important.
 - Methodology you used.
 - Findings and significance
- c) Discuss proposed area of research according to the guidelines listed below. Indicate prior experience with the research topic, if relevant, or how it is connected with your overall research interest.

In 2009 The Columbia GSAS Summer Research Program will focus on the Natural Sciences. Students who are interested in Humanities or Social Science fields will not be considered for the 2009 program. Students must consult the Office of Minority Affairs website for a listing of the science departments available.

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gsas/sub/pstudents/oma/summer-research/departments.html>

Students may indicate three labs (from their department website searches) in which they would like to conduct research. Please explain how working in these particular laboratories relates to your research interests or experience. [*Note: Program administrators will make the final determination of laboratory placement and use student selections to help guide this decision.*]

- d) Describe your future education and/or career goals and explain how participation in SRP is relevant to these.

Application Deadline: February 20

Completed application package, including evaluation letters and transcripts, must be postmarked by February 20. *Applications postmarked after February 20 will not be considered.*

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DEMOGRAPHIC FORM

Please type or print legibly in ink.

Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle Initial)

High School: _____
(Name) (City) (State) (Country)

Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply)

- Asian American (Specify) _____ Puerto Rican Mexican-American
 Black/African American Other Latino/a (specify) _____
 White Native American
 Other (specify) _____

Mother's Biographical Information

Occupation: _____

Country of Birth: _____

Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply):

- Asian American (specify) _____
 Black/African American
 Native American
 Mexican
 Puerto Rican
 Other Latino/a (specify) _____
 White
 Other (specify) _____

Highest Grade Completed:

- No Formal Schooling
 Grade School (yr. 1-5)
 Middle School (yr. 6-8)
 High School (yr. 9-12)
 College/Trade School (institution): _____
 Graduate School (institution): _____

Degree(s) Earned:

- High School Degree
 Associate's Degree or Professional Certification
 Bachelor's Degree
 Master's Degree
 Doctorate

Father's Biographical Information

Occupation: _____

Country of Birth: _____

Race/Ethnicity (check all that apply):

- Asian American (specify) _____
 Black/African American
 Native American
 Mexican
 Puerto Rican
 Other Latino/a (specify) _____
 White
 Other (specify) _____

Highest Grade Completed:

- No Formal Schooling
 Grade School (yr. 1-5)
 Middle School (yr. 6-8)
 High School (yr. 9-12)
 College/Trade School (institution): _____
 Graduate School (institution): _____

Degree(s) Earned:

- High School Degree
 Associate's Degree or Professional Certification
 Bachelor's Degree
 Master's Degree
 Doctorate

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Demographic and Financial Aid History

Are you the first in your family to attend college?

Yes No

Have you or your family qualified for federal need based aid?

Yes No

Have you received federal educational grants and/or loans that are need based as an undergraduate?

If yes, list all.

Yes No

Have you received state educational grants and/or loans that are need based as an undergraduate?

If yes, list all.

Yes No

Have you filed a *FAFSA?

Yes No

What is your undergraduate debt obligation to date from educational student loans?

- under \$ 5,000
- \$ 5,000 - \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$50,000
- over \$50,000

* FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the federal government's instrument for calculating need-based funding used to apply for federal and state financial aid (for United States citizens and Permanent Residents only).

By signing below, you certify that all the information on this form is true and complete. If asked to provide proof of this information, you agree to do so.

Signature: _____

Date: ___ / ___ / ___

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LETTER OF EVALUATION (Please duplicate for faculty recommenders)

TO THE APPLICANT

Please give this form to a professor/faculty advisor, along with an envelope marked "Evaluation Letter." Ask the sponsor to seal the letter he or she has written on your behalf in the envelope, sign across the seal, and return it to you or forward it to Columbia at the address listed on the bottom of this page. Do not open this envelope or break the seal. Submit the sealed envelope containing your letter of evaluation with your completed application package by **February 20**. (*No late submissions will be considered.*)

Last (family) name _____ First name _____ Middle _____ Social Security Number _____

Department or Program _____

Name of academic sponsor _____

Under the Family Education Rights & Privacy Act of 1974 (Buckley Amendment), which gives registered students the right to inspect and review their educational records, students may waive their right to see specific confidential statements and letters of evaluation. In the belief that applicants, and the persons from whom they request evaluations, may wish to preserve the confidentiality of those evaluations, we are giving you an opportunity to sign one of the following statements:

(1) I waive my right to examine this letter.

(2) I do not waive my right to examine this letter.

Please check

Please check

(your signature)

(your signature)

TO THE ACADEMIC ADVISOR

How long you have known the applicant and in what capacity? _____

How would you rate the applicant's overall preparation and aptitude for this program?

Top 5%

Top 10%

Top 25%

Top 50%

Below 50%

This form is submitted to you for an opinion of the applicant's undergraduate work. In a **separate letter**, we ask you to please discuss candidly the applicant's abilities, progress, and scholarly potential on your institution's letterhead. Please seal and sign the back flap of the envelope; return the evaluation to the applicant or forward the letter by **February 20**, to the Office of Minority Affairs & Special Programs, Low Memorial Library, 535 W. 116th St., Rm. 102, MC 4304, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.

Note: If the applicant requesting this evaluation has signed neither of the statements above, this letter will be available for the applicant's examination.

Signature

Name (print)

Title

Department

Date