

2019 Fralin SURF Application- Sample

Application Deadline: February 20, 2019 at 5:00pm

Program dates: May 28 - August 2, 2019

Program Information

The Fralin Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program is a 10-week training program designed to give motivated Virginia Tech undergraduates the opportunity to engage in full-time (~40 hrs/week) research and related professional development activities that mirror graduate training. The goal is to offer students experiences that will help them determine if they want to pursue a career in research while they develop skills for graduate school. The program includes weekly research and professional development seminars, periodic social events, and a final symposium during which students will present their research. At least 15 students will be selected to participate in this training program. Each fellow will receive a \$4,000 stipend. Housing is NOT provided as part of this program.

Program Eligibility and Expectations

Any Virginia Tech undergraduate considering a career in life sciences research AND who will be registered as a full-time student in Fall 2019 is encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to rising second and third year undergraduates, students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, and students who have yet to engage in a full-time summer research experience.

SURF fellows must commit at least 40 hrs/wk to the training program, therefore fellows are **not permitted to enroll in summer classes, participate in MCAT prep courses, engage in activities for pay, or engage in other activities that may interfere with program activities.**

SURF fellows commit to participating in the full 10-week program. Students may **not** take vacation during this training period.

Students must have the commitment of a faculty mentor before they apply to this program. Please note that there is NO list of available mentors. Students will need to find a suitable mentor (conducting research in a life science or related field) and gain their support prior to applying.

Application Instructions

Only complete applications will be reviewed. A complete application must include:

1. Complete e-application form (this form).
2. Submission of your unofficial transcript uploaded to this e-application.
3. A faculty letter of support. Your faculty mentor must provide a letter of support and a brief description of the project. The deadline for faculty support letters is 5:00 pm on February 25,

2019. Please provide your faculty mentor with this link for letter submission:
<https://tinyurl.com/SURF2019faculty>

Applicants will be notified about the decisions no later than March 22. Please contact Keri Swaby (email: kswaby@vt.edu) with questions.

Biographical Information

LAST Name

FIRST Name & Middle Initial

Virginia Tech E-mail address

When do you plan to graduate with your bachelor's degree?

Are you a transfer student?

How long have you been at VT?

Academic Information

College of your primary major:

Major(s)

Minor(s)

Cumulative GPA

Please upload a copy of your unofficial transcript in pdf format. When you pull up your unofficial transcript online, select all, copy and then paste into a Microsoft Word document. Then print to .pdf or save as .pdf. **IMPORTANT:** All submitted transcripts will be downloaded as a batch and will not be tied to your application form. Therefore, in order for your transcript to be reviewed as part of YOUR application you must use the following file naming convention:

LastName_FirstName_transcript.pdf.

Faculty Mentor Information

Faculty mentor LAST name

Faculty mentor FIRST name

Faculty mentor E-mail

Faculty mentor primary department

If you will have more than one faculty mentor, please give their name, department, and email address here.

Project Information

Title of proposed research project

Project Description (2,000 character, ~300 words, max): *In your own words*, describe your proposed research project. The description should include the following:

- 1) Statement of the research question(s) or goals of project
- 2) Purpose of the study (i.e. big picture and where it fits in)
- 3) Methods or description of analytic processes to be used

Why is this area of research of particular interest to you and how do you think it might influence your future plans (max 100 words)?

Research Experience

Have you had any research experience outside of your lab courses?

If yes, describe what you learned from the experience(s). (max 200 words) Include techniques as well as other elements of your personal, academic, and professional development.

***Choose up to 2 research experiences to highlight. For each research experience provide:*

Project title, mentor name, and institution where the research was conducted

When did you conduct this research?

How much time did you commit to this research? (for example, 20 hrs/week over a semester or 15 hrs/week over 8 weeks in the summer)

Which of the following best describes your experience? (select all that apply)

- for credit (undergraduate research credit, independent study, etc.)
- for pay
- volunteer

Personal Statements

Explain why you think you should be awarded a Fralin SURF fellowship. (max 100 words)

Describe what you hope to gain from participation in this program and how it might contribute to your career plans and related decisions. (max 150 words)

Describe what you think you can contribute to your chosen research project and the SURF program as a whole. (max 100 words)