

Summer Undergraduate Research Program

for Community College Students

Information for Summer 2018

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Funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

If you are a student at one of four community colleges in Oklahoma, you are eligible to apply for a summer employment opportunity in a university research facility. The objective of the program is to provide undergraduate students first-hand experience working in a biomedical research laboratory. Faculty researchers will be appointed as student mentors to guide undergraduate students into the exciting world of scientific research. Funding for the program is provided by OK-INBRE, a grant awarded to Oklahoma through the National Institutes of Health IDeA (Institutional Development Award) Program.

**Application Deadline is February 5, 2018**

Qualifications

1. Applicants must be a student at one of the following four community colleges in Oklahoma: Comanche Nation College, Oklahoma City Community College, Redlands Community College, or Tulsa Community College during the spring 2018 semester.

2. Applicants must have completed 30 hours of undergraduate study and exhibit a record of high academic achievement in science coursework including laboratories if applicable.

3. Applicants must be enrolled in at least six credit hours at one of the eligible colleges during the spring 2018 semester.

4. Students who graduate in fall 2017 and spring 2018 are eligible to apply for a summer 2018 research experience if the student is enrolled in at least 6 credit hours at their home institution during the spring 2018 semester.

5. Students who previously have been awarded a summer experience are eligible to apply. A student may participate in the program up to two times.

6. Accepted students must complete documentation of eligibility to be employed in the United States. This will include a background check, IRS form I-9 and any required supporting documentation, and IRS form W4.

7. Accepted students must attend a mandatory orientation meeting on one of the following dates:

Monday, May 7, 10:30am, OU Health Sciences Center Bird Library

Friday, May 11, 10:30am, OU Health Sciences Center Bird Library

Monday, May 14, 12pm, Oklahoma City Community College (boot camp students only – see below)

Selection

Students will be selected on a competitive basis to be placed in a laboratory at the University at the Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, the University of Oklahoma Norman campus, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, the University of Tulsa, a biotech industry lab, or any of the eleven Oklahoma regional universities. Oklahoma’s Regional universities are: Cameron University, East Central University, Langston University, Northeastern State University, Northwestern State University, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Rogers State University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, the University of Central Oklahoma, and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. You may specify your lab preference on the application. **Be advised that while the selection committee will do its best to accommodate your preference, locations are limited to where the mentors have their labs.**

Pre-Employment Training – “Boot Camp”

In the week prior to the summer research experience, students will participate in a biotech “boot camp.” The boot camp will be held at Oklahoma City Community College May 14 – 18, 2018. Skills taught include equipment instruction in balances, pipetting devices, volumetrics, autoclaves, electrophoresis apparatus, centrifuges, pH meters, and UV/vis spectrophotometers, plus practice in calculating molarity, percent, dilutions and in making solutions, media and buffers. The program content of the boot camp may change depending on the backgrounds of the students accepted into the program. Students will earn two hours of college credit for participation in the boot camp.

Summer Employment

Summer employment for selected students will consist of conducting research in a university lab. It is anticipated that upon selection in March 2018, each student will be provided a description of their research project and mentor. Mentors, graduate students, and laboratory technicians work very closely with the undergraduate student, teaching science as well as methods and techniques while allowing the student to assume responsibility for the project. The term of employment is expected to begin May 21, 2018 and run through July 13, 2018 The program concludes with a poster presentation of the research project. $2,000 fall tuition payments will be awarded for the two best posters. At least one qualified student may be selected to attend the SACNAS conference to be held in fall, 2018.

The program provides $7,200 per student for eight weeks during the summer term. This consists of a $5,000 summer salary and $2,200 for laboratory supplies to be allocated to the faculty mentor where the research is being performed. The student is responsible for all living expenses, parking fees, travel to the mentor lab, etc. Assistance with coordinating housing will be provided if needed.

Students may request to receive credit for the summer program. The cost of tuition and fees will be the responsibility of the student. Students who elect to receive credit for the summer program may be required to show proof of health insurance. This will not apply to all students.

It is expected that the student will have reliable transportation to and from the appointed mentor lab. The scheduled work hours will be determined by the mentor, but typically will be from 8am – 5pm, depending on the type of work being performed in the lab. Because this is full-time employment, it is also expected that any other employment will not interfere with the scheduled work time in the lab. The same is applicable to any courses being taken during the summer.

**Application**

**Deadline for receipt of all application materials is February 5, 2018**

Before you apply you will need:

* Personal Statement as a PDF. Name your file with your last name, followed by the word "statement" (e.g. *Marlin-Statement.pdf*)
* Transcript as a PDF, Unofficial Transcripts accepted. Name your file with your last name, followed by the word "transcript" (e.g. *Marlin-transcript.pdf*)
* Information for two letters of recommendation (name, email, phone number) The authors of your recommendation letters will automatically receive an e-mail (to the e-mail address you provided for them on your application) requesting that they submit their letters electronically by Feb 5th.

# The Admissons Committee will be reviewing applications and making decisions in late February or early March.   You will receive updates and information about decisions being made in regards to your application via the e-mail address you provided for yourself on your application.

# If you have any questions regarding your application or the program please do not hesitate to contact us at [surp@ouhsc.edu](mailto:surp@ouhsc.edu).