



August 27, 2015

Dear UTRGV student:

Thank you for your interest in applying to the UTRGV Center of Excellence in STEM Student Research Program for the 2015-2016 academic year. The program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to work on state of the art faculty research projects in the College of Science and Mathematics and College of Engineering and Computer Science. The program's goal is to increase the number of students seeking Bachelor's degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and to increase the number of students entering graduate degree programs in STEM. The program encourages women and underrepresented minorities to apply. To be considered for the program, you must satisfy the following qualifications:

- UTRGV undergraduate full-time (taking at least 12 credit hours) student
- Seeking a Bachelor's degree in one of the departments in the College of Science and Mathematics or College of Engineering and Computer Science
- GPA \geq 3.0/4.0 at UTRGV (derived from UTPA or UTB courses)
- U.S. Citizen or U.S. Permanent Resident

Participants will be required to work approximately 15 hours per week conducting research for which they will receive \$2500. Participants will be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 for travel to conferences, other research institutions, etc., as recommended by the faculty research mentor. Up to \$1,000 will be available for materials to support the research.

Please see the next two pages for the application.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone 665-3453, via email at richard.fowler@utrgv.edu, or in person in ENGR 3.2194.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Fowler, Ph. D.
Activity Director, Student Research Program
UTRGV Center of Excellence in STEM Education
Professor
Department of Computer Science

Application for Student Research Program, 2015-2016
UTRGV Center of Excellence in STEM Education

Name: _____

UTRGV student id: _____

Current address: _____

UTRGV E-mail: _____ (email will be used for communication)

Alternative E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Major: _____ Minor (if any): _____

UTRGV GPA overall: _____ GPA in major (if known): _____

Hours completed: _____ Expected UTRGV Graduation Date: _____

Other colleges or universities you have attended and dates (if any):

1. _____ 2. _____

U. S. Citizen or Permanent Resident: _____ Yes _____ No

Please indicate which of the following best describes your plans for continuing your studies at the graduate level.

Definitely will Probably will Probably will not Definitely will not Need to know more to answer

Please indicate which of the following best describes your desire and ability, given financial support, to travel to another university in the summer to conduct faculty mentored research.

Definitely interested and available Probably interested and available Probably not interested and/or available Definitely not interested and/or available Need to know more to answer

Completing the application:

To complete the application, please attach the following, as detailed on the next page:

1. Personal statement
2. Transcript
3. Resume
4. Project description (to be completed by faculty mentor)
5. Signed student statement (included on the next page)

Return the application to:

MAGC 2.412, Center of Excellence in STEM Education

1. PERSONAL STATEMENT

Please provide a one page personal statement and address the following questions in your statement. This statement is very important; therefore please address each question below.

- What are your educational and professional goals?
- How will participation in the UTRGV Center of Excellence in STEM Student Research Program further those goals?
- Would you be interested and available to travel to another university to conduct faculty mentored research in the coming summer?
- Describe your past and current research activities, e.g., participation in other research programs (e.g., HHMI, LSAMP, McNair, MARC, RISE, REUs, with a professor)?
- Discuss any extra-curricular community activities and their relevance to your educational goals.

2. TRANSCRIPT (an unofficial transcript is fine)

3. RESUME

4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (to be completed by faculty mentor)

The UTRGV Center of Excellence in STEM Student Research Program provides funding for students to conduct research with faculty mentors. If selected, the student would be provided \$2500 per semester for about 15 hours per week effort. It is anticipated that participants and mentors would participate for a full academic year, pending satisfactory project performance including completion of all reports and review of student progress.

Faculty mentors agree to 1) integrate the student in his or her research project with the student conducting original research, taking into account the student's academic background and personal qualities (discipline, persistence, etc.) to carry out the research project, 2) provide a description of the student's activities and research participation as part of the program's evaluation efforts, and 3) provide other materials as requested by the Center's funding agency, e.g., papers published describing work to which the student contributed.

As part of the student's application, please provide a title and one page (single spaced) description of the research project delineating the student's role and taking into account the student's academic background, as well as personal qualities. The description should also include the research project's scientific merit and any relation to Department of Defense research areas of interest. Students may also receive up to \$1,000 annually for travel to attend conferences, participate in research at other institutions, etc. A plan for travel must be included in the project description. Additionally, the project upon request will be allocated up to \$1,000 annually for expendable materials and supplies, student software used during the project, etc.

5. STUDENT STATEMENT

I understand that the UTRGV Center of Excellence in STEM Student Research Program will use my student records (and those from any other institutions of higher education I have attended) to review my academic career, including courses taken, grades received, and grade point average. I hereby give my permission to the UTRGV Center of Excellence in STEM Student Research Program to access my student records for this purpose.

Signature: _____ Date: _____