

SURF 2021

SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP



20 undergraduate students spend the summer learning about cancer and cancer research; as well as weekly in-depth discussions on the challenges in the fields of medicine and research for people of diverse backgrounds.

Since 2018, the Livestrong Cancer Institutes of UT Austin's Dell Medical School has held the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (SURF). SURF accepts 20 undergraduate students from across the United States to learn about laboratory, translational and clinical research, and to spark an interest in a future cancer-related career.

Starting in 2021, SURF focuses on addressing the underrepresentation of certain backgrounds in medicine and science including women, Black American, African American, Hispanic, Latinx, first generation college students, and economically disadvantaged.

Students interested in working full time for ten weeks during the summer can apply to the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship. Students will be paired with a cancer researcher at UT Austin or Dell Medical School to conduct an independent research project. At the end of the summer, SURF students will present the findings of their research during a poster competition.

Students will attend three lectures per week. On Tuesday and Thursday of each week, the lectures will focus on cancer types and research. Each Wednesday, lectures will focus on professional tools needed to overcome challenges students from diverse backgrounds will face such as implicit bias, imposter syndrome, micro-aggressions and more. The lecture series will also be an opportunity to build networks and interact with peers and leaders throughout the university.

Eligibility: Students from underrepresented groups in cancer and research; and students who have or are interested in serving communities with documented health disparities, including communities of color, those facing health disparities, and socioeconomically disadvantaged. Fellowships are open to U.S. undergraduate college students who will be 18 years old by program orientation. We are unable to accept foreign students without a U.S. student visa at this time.

November 1, 2020:

Applications Open

February 1, 2021:

Application, Letters, Statements Due

March 1, 2021:

Student Notifications

June 1, 2021:

First day of SURF

August 13, 2021:

Poster Session



Learn More and Apply:

dellmed.utexas.edu/cancer-research-fellowship