

NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

UTRGV High School Research Scholars Program (HIGH Scholars)

Program Description

The College of Sciences at UTRGV has established an exciting new program to engage high school students from the Rio Grande Valley in research projects being conducted by the university faculty at UTRGV's Brownsville and Edinburg campuses. The goal of this 10-week summer research program is to promote student interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by engaging students in "real time" laboratory or field research projects. Students will spend 25 hours per week, with a flexible schedule agreeable to the student and their mentor(s), in state-of-the-art laboratory and field research facilities at UTRGV. Each student will conduct original scientific research under the guidance of a faculty mentor and possibly also a post-doctoral researcher or a graduate student acting as co-mentor.

Students wishing to participate in the program should complete the attached fillable PDF application and attach a 1-2 page Personal Statement describing their career goals and research interests. All rising high school juniors and seniors are eligible to apply. Students who are completing their senior year and have either already enrolled or are planning to enroll at UTRGV as freshmen can also apply.

The program will begin with an orientation in which students admitted to the program will meet their mentor(s) and complete the required paperwork. All students must complete the UTRGV lab safety training prior to initiating their research projects. Under their faculty mentor's guidance, each student will develop an independent research project, submit a 2-page written proposal within the first week, and start working on the research project.

All students will come together for a weekly Lunch and Learn Session (free lunch with a planned seminar, group discussion, or social event) designed to enhance student knowledge of philosophy of science, ethics, scientific method, critical thinking, technical writing, scientific presentation, experimental design, data analysis and other professional development skills including leadership and teamwork. The program will culminate in a symposium in which students will present posters describing their research findings. Before the symposium, students will be required to submit a 2-3 page paper with a summary of their research methods, results obtained, a brief discussion, and a page describing their experiences in the program. Students who successfully complete the program requirements will receive a certificate of completion, and one or more student-mentor teams will receive top team research award(s).

Program Dates: June 6 - August 12, 2016

Application Deadline: 5:00 PM on April 11, 2016

Program Contact

MARTHA SALAZAR

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY - MAGC 2.402

1201 WEST UNIVERSITY DRIVE, EDINBURG, TX 78539

PHONE NUMBER: 956-665-7836 (STEM)

E-mail: martha.salazar@utrgv.edu

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
UTRGV High School Research Scholars Program (HIGH Scholars)

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____ In August 2016, I will be: Senior Junior UTRGV Freshman
 Name of School: _____ City: _____
 Permanent Home Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Permanent Phone: _____ Birth date: _____
 E-mail Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

The following information is collected for statistical propose only and will not be used in the selection process.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> US Citizen | <input type="checkbox"/> Male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Resident | <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American | <input type="checkbox"/> White/Anglo American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |

Grades based on GPA: when A= 4.00 _____
 Number of college credits earned: _____
 Class Rank: _____ out of _____ students
 SAT Score: _____
 ACT Score: _____

Please list awards, honors and scholarships received at school

<u>Honor/Award</u>	<u>Reason for the award</u>	<u>Year/Period</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Expected graduation date (Year) _____

What are your plans after graduation?

Indicate your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice for area of research. Every attempt will be made to best match the mentors with your 1st choice. The broad areas of research include: Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Geology, Microbiology, Molecular/Cellular/Structural Biology, Environmental Science, Marine Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, and Statistics.

My preferred area of research is:

- 1st Choice _____
- 2nd Choice _____
- 3rd Choice _____

PREFERRED RESEARCH MENTOR:

- I would like to work with _____
- I have no preferred research mentor and will be happy to work with any UTRGV faculty member.

PREFERRED CAMPUS:

__ Brownsville __ Edinburg

PERSONAL STATEMENT

WRITE A (1-2 PAGE) PERSONAL STATEMENT ESSAY DESCRIBING YOUR INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THE HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM. THE PERSONAL STATEMENT ESSAY SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (1) **WHY** YOU ARE APPLYING TO THE HIGH SCHOOL RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT UTRGV, (2) **WHAT** YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THIS PROGRAM, (3) **HOW** THIS PROGRAM IS RELEVANT TO YOUR ACADEMIC CAREER GOALS, AND (4) **WHETHER** YOU HAVE DONE LABORATORY OR FIELD RESEARCH BEFORE; IF SO, WHAT TYPE OF RESEARCH. THE STATEMENT SHOULD BE TYPEWRITTEN, SINGLE- OR DOUBLE-SPACED, 12-POINT FONT (TIMES ROMAN OR SIMILAR), WITH 1" PAGE MARGINS.

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

EMAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION AND PERSONAL STATEMENT TO: cos@utrgv.edu