

# Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Information

## Time line for REU Applications

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|---|---|
| <b>Fall</b><br><i>Now-Early<br/>December</i>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Search for programs that fit your long term goals</li><li>• Draft personal statements and essays</li><li>• Identify and talk with potential references</li><li>• Discuss options with family</li></ul>  |
| <hr/>   |   |
| <b>Winter</b><br><i>Mid-December<br/>- February</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Choose top five programs (note deadlines and requirements)</li><li>• During winter break to work on applications</li><li>• Request letters of recommendation, and follow-up to ensure they are submitted</li><li>• Revise and polish essays and cover letters (Visit the writing center!)</li><li>• Complete and submit applications!</li></ul> |
| <hr/>   |   |
| <b>Spring</b><br><i>March-May</i>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wait on offers, consider offers and select and respond to offers</li><li>• Sign and return program forms</li><li>• Make travel and housing plans</li><li>• Let Alicia know your summer research plans!</li></ul>  |

## Resources:

Websites with REU program and other research opportunities.

- Pathways to Science
  - <http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/Undergrads.aspx>
- NASA –single application to all of NASA internships and research experiences
  - <https://intern.nasa.gov/>
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
  - [http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list\\_result.jsp?unitid=10006&d-49653-s=0&d-49653-o=2&d-49653-p=1](http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.jsp?unitid=10006&d-49653-s=0&d-49653-o=2&d-49653-p=1)
- Department of Homeland Security (note GPA requirement is a 3.3)
  - <http://www.orau.gov/dhseducation/internships/>

**Note:** All of these websites can be found on a Google Search “REU” or “Pathways to Science” or “NASA Internship”

## REU Application tips and information

- Pathways to Science:
  - <http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/Undergrads.aspx>
- Oregon State Campus Resources:
  - **CV/Resume:** Beaver Careers: <http://career.oregonstate.edu/> If you would like your cover letter, resume or both reviewed, come to Drop-In hours: Monday-Thursday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Career Services.
  - **Personal Statement:** Writing Center <http://writingcenter.oregonstate.edu/>

OSU COE Research Experience for Undergraduates Workshop Fall 2015

For more information contact Alicia Lyman-Holt ([alicia.lyman-holt@oregonstate.edu](mailto:alicia.lyman-holt@oregonstate.edu))

## Applications Tips and Logistics

**Application components** – Have these ready before you start fill out the applications

- Name and contact information (remember to use an e-mail you check)
- Personal Statement and/or Essays
- Transcripts and University Information
- References
- CV/Resume

### Personal Statement

Your personal statements and essays should be clear and concise statements of your career goals and interested in the program. Make sure tailor each essay to the specific program. Use examples to highlight your experiences, avoid clichés (like how much you like to play with Legos), and keep your writing simple and direct. Your audience is engineers like you they don't want to read a sonnet! **Take your personal statement to the writing center and get help with it!**

*Personal Statement Components (suggested)*

Interest	Experience	Goals
Explain why the specific program interests you This might include <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Life experiences</li><li>• Courses you have taken</li><li>• Internships/work</li><li>• Things you have read or learned about</li><li>• Clubs</li></ul>	Connect your interest in the program to your experiences and academics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrate how you have already pursued this topic</li><li>• Use examples</li></ul>	How this program will support your long term professional goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Graduate school</li><li>• Career goals</li></ul>

### CV/Resume

This should highlight your relevant work experience including significant volunteer work. The OSU career center has good on-line resources and will provide feedback it you bring in your CV/Resume.

### References

References are important because they allow the program to get to you know from the perspective of someone who already knows you. Typically programs allow 2 references, so choose one person who is familiar with your academic work and a second who you have worked for. Good references might be:

- Professors who you have taken multiple classes or small classes from
- Academic Advisors
- Supervisors from work or volunteer projects

Make sure to contact them this quarter, so they are ready when you need a letter. Then when you submit your applications, provide your references information about each program and a summary of relevant skills and interests.

**Time:** These applications take time and revisions. Start these early so you have the luxury of writing and revising drafts and getting feedback.

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