SURF Program Application 2016

INSTRUCTIONS AND INTRODUCTION

Q1.
INSTRUCTIONS AND INTRODUCTION
Deadline for submission to be considered for Clark Science Center managed funding sources of SURF Program stipends: Monday, February 15, 2016.

The application form will remain open until May 2016. Applications received after the February 15 deadline will still be considered but will be at a distinct disadvantage to those submitted on time in the allocation of Science Center managed funding.

Please complete all REQUIRED (*) fields below. You will be required to enter a choice or some text for each required field before you can progress through the application. Note that you may return to earlier fields and edit the application on multiple occasions FROM THE SAME COMPUTER.

COMPLETE INFORMATION. Please do not submit the application (see the final question!) until you have assembled ALL of the information necessary and are satisfied that it is as complete and well-presented as you want it to be.

When you are satisfied that the application is complete, complete the last question of the application and SUBMIT. You will receive an email with the text of your application included.

A copy of your application will be forwarded on completion to your first supervisor at his or her Smith College email address along with a request for their very short written recommendation. You should be sure that you have requested this in advance from your advisor when you are discussing your proposal. We request advisor recommendations by February 26, 2016.

The data collected in this application will be used for the process of SURF Program application review, the allocation of available funding, and program assessment.

If you have questions about SURF, the application, or completing the electronic form, please email surf@smith.edu or telephone x3950 (413-585-3950). Information about SURF is available here:
http://www.science.smith.edu/student-opportunities/surf/

INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPLICANT

Q2. * Preferred first name:

Q3. * Last name:

Q4. Legal first and last name, if different:
Q5. * Smith graduating class: (Please check all that apply).

- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- January graduate
- Ada Comstock Scholar
- Smith graduate student in the following program:

Q6. * Smith ID# (your 9 digit "99" number):

Q7. * Mailing address:

Students not graduating in 2016: Your campus box is where your check will be mailed if you are awarded a SURF Program stipend, and you do not have direct deposit.

Students graduating in Spring 2016: Please enter a non-Smith mailing address. Your campus box address will be canceled when you graduate.

Note to all: All awardees have the option to set up direct deposit arrangement for SURF awards.

Q8. * Smith College email address:

Q9. * Telephone:

Q10. * Nationality/Residence status:

This information can be important as we allocate award funding from different sources among students with fundable projects. A few funds are directed toward international students in particular.

I am....

- a US citizen.
- a US permanent resident (hold green card).
- an international student, with citizenship and residence outside the US (please specify).
- Other:
Q11. * Smith research involvement and experience (check all that apply):

This information is particularly relevant to our program analysis and assessment.

I have or had...

- been an AEMES participant. I currently (or previously) participate(d) in one of the AEMES Programs (AEMES Scholars, Peer Mentoring, Early Research, McKinley Honors Fellowship Program).
- serve(d) as a mentor in the Peer Mentoring Program.
- a SURF award in 2015.
- a SURF award in 2014.
- a SURF award in 2013 or earlier year. Indicate year(s):

- participated in a summer research program outside Smith. Indicate program(s) and location(s):

- worked as a research assistant or lab technician. Provide brief details:

- taken a research course or special studies. Provide # and brief details of course(s):

- Other research involvement and/or experience:

- I have no prior research involvement or experience.

Q12. * First major/concentration (declared, prospective, undecided)

Astronomy
Biochemistry
Biological Sciences
Biomathematical Sciences Concentration
Chemistry

Computer Science
Engineering
Environmental Science & Policy
Geosciences
Mathematics & Statistics

Neuroscience
Physics
Psychology
Other:

Undecided (I don't yet know which major I want to declare)

Q13. Is your first major/concentration declared or prospective (you plan to declare, but have not yet done so)?

- Declared
- Prospective

Q14. (If relevant) Second major/concentration (declared or prospective)

Astronomy
Biochemistry
Biological Sciences
Biomathematical Sciences Concentration
Chemistry
Computer Science
Engineering

Environmental Science & Policy
Geosciences
Mathematics & Statistics
Neuroscience
Physics
Psychology
Other:
Q15. (If relevant) Is your second major/concentration declared or prospective?

☐ Declared
☐ Prospective

Q16. * Your unofficial Smith College transcript is part of your application and will be reviewed. Here, please provide summary GPA information (include all that are relevant):

Current GPA:
Most recent semester GPA:
Other relevant information (e.g., GPA at school from which you transferred last year):

Q17. Please upload a copy of your unofficial Smith transcript. Unofficial copies are fine. We apologize for the inconvenience, but this survey tool does not currently allow uploads of PDF documents. Please take a screen shot or scan your transcript and paste it into a Word Document.

Browse... No file selected.

Q18. If applicable, please upload a copy of your transcript(s) from any undergraduate institution(s) you have attended other than Smith. Unofficial copies are fine. We apologize for the inconvenience, but this survey tool does not currently allow uploads of PDF documents. Please take a screen shot or scan your transcript and paste it into a Word Document. If you have more than one transcript, please combine them into a single document for uploading.

Browse... No file selected.

Q19. * If it should be required to process my application, I give permission to the Clark Science Center Directors’ Office to obtain a copy of my unofficial Smith College transcript from the Registrar’s Office for purposes of evaluating my application to participate in the SURF Program.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Other/comment:

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION AND PROPOSAL

Q20. Please select the name of your (first) research supervisor at Smith. You can enter their name below if they are not on the list.

Applications to the Smith SURF Program must be sponsored by a Smith Science Center faculty member. This is the advisor of your summer research project.
Q21. If your (first) research advisor was not listed above, please enter their name here:

Q22. Please select the email address of your (first) research supervisor at Smith. You can enter their address below if it is not on the list.

Q23. If your (first) research advisor's email address was not listed above, please enter their email address here:

Q24. * Academic department of your (first) research supervisor at Smith:
- Astronomy
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Geosciences
- Mathematics & Statistics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Other:

Q25. Please select the name of your second research supervisor (if relevant). If your second advisor does not appear on this list, you can enter their name below.

One research supervisor is the norm! There may be circumstances where two faculty members or a faculty member and staff member working in a relevant research or applied research area will collaborate to supervise you. There may also be occasions where you will work partly under the supervision of a qualified researcher in the wider academic and research community; your second supervisor would be the individual outside Smith.

Q26. If your (second) research advisor was not listed above, please enter their name here:

Q27. Please select the email address of your second research supervisor (if relevant). If your second advisor does not appear on this list, you can enter their email address below. Please note that we will not automatically request an advisor recommendation from your second research supervisor. You may, if you wish and your advisor agrees, ask your second research supervisor to submit an advisor recommendation (email surf@smith.edu with the subject heading: SURF 2016 Second advisor recommendation request).
Q28. If your (second) research advisor’s email address was not listed above, please enter their email address here:

Q29. Academic department or affiliation of your second research supervisor (if relevant):

- Astronomy
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Geosciences
- Mathematics & Statistics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Other:

Q30. If relevant, name, details of institutional affiliation and email/mailing address for a second research supervisor based outside of Smith College:

Q31. * The normal length of a SURF Program summer project is 10 weeks. The official program dates are Monday 5/16/16 to Friday 8/19/16. Which of the following best reflects your plan? You can change your dates later on in the application process if necessary.

- 10 consecutive weeks
- 10 non-consecutive weeks.
- Fewer than 10 weeks.
- Other:

Q32. Please indicate the dates you plan on conducting your SURF research. Please use month-day-year (mm-dd-yyyy) numeric format. (For example 05-16-2016).

Start Date
End date
Other information, or non-consecutive dates

Q33. Summary stipend budget - total $$s. Calculate your stipend budget. Typically, \# wks x $400 per wk.

Unless a larger amount is available from a particular fund, SURF Program stipend grants are a maximum of $4,000 for a 10-week period of summer research. If you propose a shorter period of summer research, your stipend budget would be prorated at the rate of $400 per week of research.
Q34. If you receive a SURF award, what arrangements do you plan for housing?

I plan to apply for summer break housing at Smith.
I plan to live off-campus in or near Northampton.
My SURF project will not require me to be on campus.
I haven't decided yet!

Comment:

Q35. Title of your proposed research project:

Q36. Description of your proposed research project (4,500 character limit):

Outline your purpose and goals in terms that a scientifically literate generalist would understand. (Think of someone in another field or who has not studied science for a few years.) But, don't dilute the science! Satisfy your supervisor(s) that you've described your proposed research in a suitably rigorous way!
Q37. * Explain why you have selected this particular project (2,000 character limit):
There are many ways to answer this question, but, basically, this is an opportunity to catalog your relevant strengths. Explain some of the reasons that the particular project fits your experience. Explain some of the assistance you may be able to provide your supervision on an existing or future project. Perhaps you might explain some of the reasons that you are a suitable candidate to be chosen by your supervisor for this particular project.

Q38. * Explain the three most important things that you hope to learn through completing this project of summer undergraduate research.

1. 

2. 

3. 

Q39. * Explain how you expect to be able to build on your summer undergraduate research experience in the future (3,000 character limit).
It's your future we're talking about here! You can consider the rest of your Smith career, graduate school, future professional work, and/or impact on other facets of your future life!
AGREEMENTS AND SUBMISSION

Q40. * If selected for a SURF Program award, I agree that I will complete the project outlined in this application to the best of my ability.

You will be expected to work at least 30 hours per week on your project in the place(s) and manner agreed with your supervisor. You will be expected to keep to the timetable outlined for your project unless you and your supervisor agree a mutually acceptable alternative. Your stipend will be adjusted if you work less time than proposed. If your supervisor judges your work, effort, and/or attitude to be unsatisfactory, you risk revocation of your award.

- Yes
- No

Q41. * If selected for a SURF Program award, I agree that I will complete and submit the required SURF report and abstract by the deadline, August 29, 2016.

It is a condition of SURF awards that a report be completed at or near the end of the research period in the summer. You are recommended to discuss the report with your supervisor(s). Your report forms the basis of your entry in the annual print and electronic publication, "Women in Science."

- Yes
- No
Q42. * If selected for a SURF Program award, I agree that I will complete the required survey in August.

It is a condition of SURF awards that participants complete a survey administered by Grinnell College (SURE) on your research experience and outcomes. The data collected in the survey permits Smith College to assess our research program over time and in comparison with our peer institutions. Empirical data of this sort is very important for us to share with our current and future funders. Tell us about your experience, but also help build the base for future generations of Smith science students to have SURF awards!

Yes

No

Q43. * ANSWER THIS QUESTION WHEN YOU ARE READY TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION!!

My application is now complete. Please consider my application for a SURF Program award.

Yes, my application is complete (signed by typing your name below):

When I am ready to submit, I will type the word “SUBMIT” below, in all CAPS (yes, it is case sensitive) and then hit the advance button below ["Next Page"].

(We don’t want you to submit your application until it is totally complete. Check your responses one last time before you hit the advance button below!!)

Clark Science Center, Smith College