

THE WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (WISE) PROGRAM

at the
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR WOMEN UNDERGRADUATES (REWU)

2009 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

DEADLINE: MARCH 2, 2009

Background

Talented undergraduate women in mathematics, science and engineering programs at UC have a unique opportunity to participate in summer research projects. The program is sponsored in part by the Offices of the Provost and the Vice President for Research, and the support and cooperation of several departments in the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Engineering, Pharmacy, Nursing and Medicine. The REWU Program is specifically aimed at encouraging the participation of talented young women in ongoing research. The goal is to expose students to various aspects of scientific and experimental research, and to encourage the pursuit of research. Participation in research projects is known to be a significant factor in enhancing the students' learning experience, and in encouraging talented students to excel.

Program Description

The undergraduate student will work closely with an experienced faculty advisor/researcher on ongoing research projects. In addition to carrying out the research, the student will be involved in interpreting the results of the research, deriving conclusions, and preparing and presenting a technical paper. The Program will begin with a Workshop for all the participating Mentors and Mentees, to train them for their respective roles, and prepare them for maximizing their benefits from the program. The students will also attend weekly workshops on topics such as leadership skills development, and How to Read a Scientific Paper, How to Conduct Library Reviews and Bibliography Searches, How to Write an Abstract and a Technical Paper, How to Present a Scientific Paper, How to Write a Press Release, and prepare a written final report. The capstone experience of the program is a formal presentation equivalent to that at a national professional meeting, and is attended by top UC Administration and Distinguished Alumni as well as colleagues, friends, faculty and interested community. Thus, the totality of a research experience is encountered. For the engineering undergraduates, this program may constitute one of their normal co-op experience quarters.

Student Stipend

Each participant for the summer program will receive a stipend of \$4000 for the twelve-week program, and will be expected to work 40 hours per week.

Participating Faculty and Research Projects

The large number of participating faculty come from various Departments in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Medical Center. Descriptions of the available research projects may be viewed at the web page www.wise.uc.edu for the UC WISE Program. The application form may also be downloaded from this web site.

Eligibility

UC undergraduate women students are eligible to apply if they will have completed the freshman year by the end of the Spring 2009 Quarter and if they have a GPA of 2.5 or above in engineering, science and math classes. Previous research experience is not required. However, interest in research is expected.

Application Procedure

Students applying for the summer research opportunities must submit the following items:

- A completed application form, available at www.wise.uc.edu
- A current UC official transcript
- A 500-word essay describing reasons for wanting to participate in the program, what you hope to gain from this experience, and brief comments on a career plan, as best as you can define it at the present time.
- Two letters of recommendation (faculty or professional).

On the application form, indicate which three research topics most interest you. You should check the "no preference" line only if you have no preference amongst the three research topics you list. This information will be used to match you with a project, and will not be a factor in the selection process. We urge you to contact, as soon as possible, the faculty member(s) listed alongside the project of your interest, to learn more about the project, what your responsibilities will be and a tentative timetable for the twelve-week research period. Because you will be immersed full-time in the research experience, concurrent courses or other employment are not possible.

Please be sure to contact the faculty advisor associated with your preferred projects and state so on Page 2 of your application form. You are also advised to seek at least one of your two required reference letters from the faculty project advisor.

The application deadline is **March 2, 2009**, and we hope to announce the award recipients after April 1, 2009.

Please send all applications and reference letters to:

Patrice Woerner
University of Cincinnati, 2614 McMicken Circle, Room 240 Van Wormer
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Cincinnati, OH 45221-0631

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REWU 2009 PROGRAM, CONTACT:

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