

Fall 2014 STEP Scholars Meeting

Summer Research Opportunities

November 9, 2014
4:30 – 6 pm



Remaining 2014-15 Requirements

- Submit at least **five reflections** following attendance at discipline colloquia (per semester)
- Participate in a **mock interview** before the end of the Fall 2014 semester (set up interview with the Career Center)
- Submit at least **two applications** for Summer Internships, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) and/or Summer Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE)



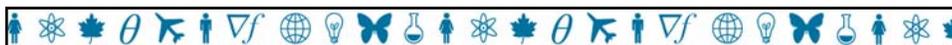
What is an REU or SURE?

- Research Experience for Undergraduates
 - Paid summer research experience
 - Credit may be available
 - Typically 8-12 week residential programs
 - On University campuses or in Federal labs
 - International opportunities available



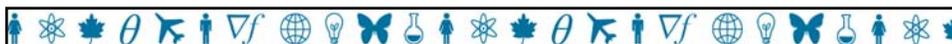
Who should apply to REUs?

- STEM majors...
 - in their sophomore or junior year
 - with or without research experience
 - interested in research as a career
 - interested in medical school
 - interested in graduate school
 - interested in teaching
 - interested in learning “How Science Really Works”



Why should you consider an REU?

- Research Experience
 - Do I really want to “do” science?
- Opportunity to explore other areas of STEM
 - What interdisciplinary research is out there?
- Opportunity to meet others interested in STEM
 - Networking, finding mentors
- “Resume building”
 - REUs help graduate schools and medical schools know that you really understand what science is about



How can I find REUs?

STEP Office Website:

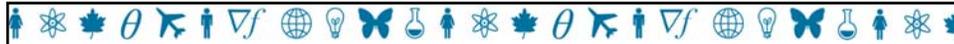
<http://step2.truman.edu/currentstudent/research-opportunities/>

Truman opportunities:

<http://osr.truman.edu/research/index.asp>

NSF opportunities:

http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.jsp



What is required to apply?

- Personal Statement
 - Content varies with program but will typically ask you to describe your research experience and why you are interested in their program
- Resume
 - Include your research experience and any appropriate laboratory techniques/instruments you have used
- Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation (2-3)



Letters of Recommendation

- Who to ask for letters?
 - STEM faculty who know you personally
 - Someone who can write you a strong letter
- How to ask for letters?
 - Politely!
 - Set an appointment to meet in person
 - Follow up with
 - details and deadlines
 - resumes and personal statements
- When to ask for letters?
 - At least a month in advance of the deadline
 - Send a reminder as deadline nears (~2 weeks)