Undergraduate Summer Scholar Program

Program Description

The goal of the Dominican University Undergraduate Summer Scholar Program (USSP) is to enable qualified undergraduate students to complete research projects or other creative investigations during the summer under the supervision of a faculty mentor.

The USSP is a highly competitive awards program open to any Dominican undergraduate student in good standing who has completed his or her sophomore or junior year. The student must have completed a minimum of 60 semester hours in order to be eligible. The student must also be enrolled for 12 or more hours in the spring semester preceding and the fall semester following the summer award. Faculty mentors must be full-time members of the undergraduate or graduate faculty at Dominican University. Selection of participants is based on the student's academic merit and the quality of the proposed scholarly project. Typically, three or four USSP applications are funded each summer.

Award Amount: $2000 stipend to the student for 10 weeks of support, awarded in two installments (July and August) with the approval of the faculty mentor; $500 stipend to the faculty mentor

This program is not intended for study abroad or the purchase of materials or supplies. If a student needs to purchase materials, supplies or equipment for his or her project, he or she should consider applying for an Undergraduate Research Support Award (URSA), which specifically funds such purchases (see the URSCI website for a full description of this award). URSAs have a limit of $500 per student per award.

Note: The student must plan to continue as an undergraduate at Dominican University for at least one semester after the award period. The student must also agree to present a paper summarizing the experience at the URSCI Exposition held during the spring semester following the award period. Students must enroll for three credit hours of undergraduate research credit during the summer; however, the cost for the three credits of summer tuition will be waived.

To Apply: Complete the application and provide the following **by March 19, 2018**.

1. **Cover sheet** (see on page 3 of this document): Complete the cover sheet.
2. **Project Description** (to be submitted by the student, limit 2-page, max. 750 words): Using terms that can be understood by a layperson, concisely describe (1) the purpose and goals of the project, (2) the educational benefits, and (3) the expected project outcome(s). The expected project outcome must clearly identify a "deliverable project" that the student can, for

example, present at an academic conference or publish in an academic journal. Actual presentation or publication acceptance is not a requirement of the grant.

3. **Project timeline** (to be submitted by the student, max. 200 words): It is expected that the student will work on the project for at least 200 hours over the summer (20 hours per week for 10 weeks). Provide an approximate timetable with project milestones.

4. **Evidence of course enrollment and academic achievement:** Submit a copy of the student's Dominican University transcripts (unofficial is sufficient).

5. **Plans for mentoring** (to be submitted by the student after consultation with the mentor, limit 1-page, max. 300 words): The student and faculty mentor need to discuss and agree upon a general plan that ensures the faculty member will provide adequate supervision and mentor support for the student's work. The description should include the form and frequency of interactions between the student and faculty member during the summer.

6. **Responsible Conduct of Research** (to be submitted by the student): Depending on the proposed project and the applicant's field of study, training in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) may be required. Consult with the faculty mentor whether RCR is required for this project. Provide a <u>brief statement</u> on whether RCR is required for this project and if so, specify how this training will be obtained or state when or how the training was obtained. In some fields, students may have already received instruction on avoiding plagiarism in a library information literacy workshop. Students without training in RCR who are granted an USSP award will need to obtain it. Other students will need to receive RCR training through Citi Training or other pre-approved method appropriate to their discipline.

The (1) cover sheet, (2) project description, (3) project timeline, (4) evidence of course enrollment and academic achievement, (5) plan for mentoring and (6) RCR statement must be collected in a single file (Word document or .pdf file) and submitted by the student to the Director of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Investigations (URSCI) via email to ursci@dom.edu.

7. **Letter from the faculty mentor** (limit 1 page, max. 300 words): Describe this student's relevant expertise and potential to execute the proposed project, including describing relevant course experiences, your familiarity with the student's record of academic achievement, specific skills the student possesses, prior research experience, and training. Confirm the plans for the form and frequency of interactions between the student and the faculty mentor during the summer.

This letter must be sent separately from the student's application directly to the Director of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Investigations (URSCI) via email to ursci@dom.edu.

URSCI Undergraduate Summer Scholar Program Application

Cover Sheet

Student information

Name: _____

Student ID: _____   Email: _____

Major (with concentration, if any): _____

Current G.P.A.: _____

Previous grants from URSCI or other DU sources (incl. ExcEL scholarships), if any: _____

_____

Title of proposed project: _____

_____

Faculty mentor information

Name: _____

School: _____   Department: _____