



Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (SURF)

INFORMATION FOR FACULTY MENTORS

The SURF Program creates partnerships between students and Faculty Mentors and allows the students to learn the fundamentals of research.

The essence of the SURF Program is the Fellow/Research Mentor relationship and the opportunity it gives the student to engage in inquiry-based learning or creative work. The student scholar will gain experience in probing the unexplained, exploring the possible, and creating new knowledge. For faculty, the benefits of working with a SURF Fellow include sharing the excitement of research with a bright and eager future scholar, acquiring valuable research assistance, supporting an undergraduate's exploration of academic and career interests, and connecting directly with the experiences of undergraduates at the College of Engineering.

We ask that you, or a graduate student or post doc under your supervision, take an active role in your scholar's Fellow experience. Your student will be a rising junior or senior, who most likely has had very little or no prior research experience. We encourage you to establish clear guidelines as to what you expect your scholar to accomplish/learn on his or her research project. To avoid later confusion, it would be best if you and your scholar schedule periodic conversations about the scholar's progress during the course of the semester.

If you choose to participate in the SURF Program as a Faculty Mentor, please keep in mind the following:

- No more than one SURFer per Faculty Mentor will be funded by the program.
- If you choose to be a Faculty Mentor, please make sure your schedule permits it. The program is based on Faculty Mentor's guidance and involvement (i.e., at least one meeting per week and regular availability to guide with the project and assignments).
- Each student must complete three assignments, requiring your guidance and presence:
 - Research Journal
 - Abstract (submitted at the end of the summer)
 - Final Presentation (scheduled for the day before Fall classes begin)