

# Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP)

*at UC Berkeley*



**Application for Summer 2009**

*Deadline: February 2, 2009*

# Summer Research Opportunity Program for 2009

The Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) at the University of California, Berkeley, was established to promote access to graduate education among undergraduates who have been educationally or economically disadvantaged and who may not have exposure to the academic environment of a research university.

The program offers internships in the arts and humanities, social sciences, and physical sciences for sophomores, juniors, and seniors (*not* graduating in the spring semester/quarter, except UC Berkeley students). This year SROP has the opportunity to also accommodate students interested in applying to law school. SROP is a eight-week program that will commence on May 31, 2009, and continue through July 25, 2009.

The goal of this program is to increase the level of diversity among students entering Ph.D. programs by providing research opportunities under the supervision of a faculty mentor. Program objectives are: to provide students with preparation to become research scholars; to stimulate serious consideration of graduate study; and to increase the number of successful underserved applicants and to enroll these students in graduate school.

The Summer Research Opportunity Program affords students an opportunity to conduct research under the direction and guidance of a UC Berkeley faculty member and/or graduate student mentor. In most disciplines, scholars may propose a research topic, but the mentor determines the research project.

Special consideration will be given to applicants who have shown potential for success, but may have had limited access to graduate research or other academic opportunities. The program strongly encourages applications from undergraduates who have been educationally or economically disadvantaged and who show potential to benefit from exposure to the environment of a research university. All applicants will be considered without regard to race or gender.

## ELIGIBILITY

The summer research internships will be offered on a competitive basis to those individuals who, at the application deadline:

- a) are citizens or permanent residents of the United States;
- b) are enrolled full time at a four-year college or university;
- c) are sophomores (who have completed at least *three* semesters or *four* quarters of actual college course work), juniors, and seniors who will *not* be graduating in the spring (However, graduating UC Berkeley seniors *are eligible.*);
- d) have *not* already completed a B.A. or B.S. degree;
- e) have a 3.0 or better cumulative grade point average;
- f) have shown potential for success, but may have had limited access to graduate research or other preparatory opportunities; the applicant should indicate his/her potential for success particularly as it relates to educational achievement while overcoming obstacles, which may include, but are not limited to economic, social, or educational challenges.

## PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

Research projects are under individual faculty sponsorship. Students are encouraged to express interest in a specific area of research. The program *cannot*, however, guarantee that the student will work in his/her expressed research interest. Faculty mentors and the program director reserve the right to make final research placements.

All research is substantive, requiring the *full-time* commitment of the student (five days a week/40 hours per week). In conjunction with the requirements of the faculty mentors, all participants are required to submit a research paper and make a final presentation. Students also participate in supplemental activities (weekly workshops, meetings, and Graduate Record Examination [GRE] preparation) to enhance their program experience and preparation for graduate school.

## AWARDS

Students will be awarded a \$3,000 stipend. All program participants will be required to live in assigned, on-campus housing (dorms). The program will cover all expenses for room and board (double occupancy). Travel costs to the program and back to the student's home campus will be covered within program limitations (for all non-UC Berkeley students). Scholars admitted to SROP should be notified by March 31, 2009.

## APPLICATION MATERIALS AND PROCEDURES

*All* application materials *must* be submitted together in *one* envelope and must include:

- a) an application form filled out completely;
- b) a personal statement (*Finalist may be contacted for a phone interview.*);
- c) a listing of current course work;
- d) an official transcript of all college work;
- e) *two* letters of recommendation from faculty members or teaching assistants (*do not mail separately*);
- f) **ONE SEPARATE COPY** of the **COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKET**. The copy must contain items a–e to be considered complete. *However*, applicants who waive access to their letters of recommendation will not open or photocopy these letters. If access is *not* waived, include copies of all letters of recommendation. You *must* open the official transcript(s) in order to make the photocopy for your completed application packet. It will still be considered official for program purposes.

All application packets (containing a–f) must be *received* (not postmarked) by the Graduate Diversity Program by **February 2, 2009**. For further information, please contact the Graduate Diversity Program by email ([grad.diversity@berkeley.edu](mailto:grad.diversity@berkeley.edu)), or call (510) 643-6010.

**Without a copy of your *entire* application packet, along with the original, your application is *not* considered complete.** All documents must be returned to:

University of California, Berkeley  
Graduate Division/Equity & Inclusion  
Summer Research Opportunity Program Application for 2009  
318 Sproul Hall #5900  
Berkeley, CA 94720-5900