

Summer Undergraduate Program for Experiential Research (SUPER) Program Requirements

SUPER Scholars are required to participate in the following activities:

Safety Training: All SUPER Scholars must complete a set of mandatory online training modules on laboratory safety prior to the start of the program. SUPER Scholars will receive further lab-specific training from their mentor.

Orientation: Upon arrival, program staff and leadership will lead SUPER Scholars through an orientation to review the program requirements, campus resources, and introduce the Austin area.

Progress Meetings: SUPER Scholars will join student peers for biweekly progress meetings. These meetings will be held every two weeks for the duration of the program.

Written Progress Report: Midway through the summer session, SUPER Scholars will prepare a three-page progress report. This report will be critically reviewed by their hands-on mentor and their PI – who will in turn provide an update to the SUPER Director and Associate Director. The program directors will review the written progress report and provide additional feedback to the student, their mentor, and the PI as needed.

SUPER Lab Swap: Each SUPER scholar will host another student in their lab and will, in turn be hosted by another student. Swaps are followed by a group reflection session centered on the diversity of lab cultures, lab organizations, scientific approaches, and other relevant topics.

Outreach Activity: Towards the end of the summer, SUPER Scholars will prepare an outreach activity that is aimed at some audience from “home”. Home could be their home institution, elementary-, middle -, or high-school, or their family, local community organization, or church, etc. A workshop with interactive design activities will be presented by the College of Natural Sciences Science Outreach Task Force. Mentors will subsequently guide students through implementation as a way to be involved with the students after the summer program. Scholars will prepare a reflection on this experience with responses to supplied questions.

Final Poster Presentation: SUPER Scholars will prepare and present posters about their work at a University-sponsored STEM poster session that is open to all Summer Research Scholars Programs. SUPER participants will be joined by undergraduate researchers from other programs like Computer Science, Physics, Biomedical Engineering, Plant Biology, as well as other programs like the Louise Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program and Equal Opportunities in Engineering (EOE).



The University of Texas at Austin
Institute for Cellular and
Molecular Biology
College of Natural Sciences

Final Oral Presentation: SUPER Scholars will prepare a brief final talk about their research project and present this to other Summer Research Program students at the UT Austin College of Natural Sciences symposium.

Final Written Report: Students will prepare a final report about their summer that is reviewed by their mentor, PI, and the SUPER program directors.

Professional Development: Throughout the summer, SUPER Scholars will attend a series of workshops, seminars, and discussions aimed at professional career development.

Mock Interviews: Late in the 10-week summer session, SUPER Scholars will be interviewed by a UT faculty member to simulate a graduate school admissions interview. Faculty interviewers will provide constructive feedback aimed at helping SUPER Scholars prepare for future graduate admissions applications.