

STRC Undergraduate Research Fellowship

The STRC Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) is open to students by nomination. Students interested in the fellowship should contact a faculty member who has familiarity with your research and writing skills to discuss the opportunity and seek a nomination.

Student Eligibility

Academically outstanding **rising juniors or seniors** who are interested in pursuing a humanities research project on some aspect of the histories and cultures of people of color, in the US or in diaspora, are eligible. Students must also have a declared major or minor in the College of LAS.

About the Fellowship Program

The STRC Undergraduate Fellowship will provide six undergraduate students with a stipend and free tuition to attend a 5-week Summer Session I course, taught by a faculty member in LAS, which will introduce them to basic research methodologies in the interdisciplinary humanities.

The course, entitled “Research Methods in the Interdisciplinary Humanities,” is an on-campus, 5-week, 4 credit-hour seminar in interdisciplinary humanities research methods. During the class, students will:

- develop a viable research question on a topic of their choice related to some aspect of the histories and cultures of people of color, in the US or in diaspora;
- build a bibliography of secondary and primary sources;
- develop a plan of work;
- write an abstract;
- draft a 3-5 page prospectus for a 10-12 page research paper.

Students will spend the rest of their summer independently researching and drafting their research paper according to their prospectuses. They will meet once with their SURF instructor in late July/early August to report on their progress; they will submit rough drafts of their papers on/around August 30. After receiving feedback on their drafts in early September, they will work with their instructor to develop a poster presentation about their research project for the STRC Symposium in late October. They will continue to revise the paper through fall quarter and submit a final version for a grade in early December.

Students who are being nominated for this opportunity are encouraged to visit the FAQ. Questions may also be directed to the STRC at strc@depaul.edu.

Guidance for Faculty Wishing to Nominate a Student

The SURF seeks to support academically talented students (especially but not limited to students majoring or minoring in African and Black Diaspora Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, or Global Asian Studies) to prepare to enter graduate school and the academy by introducing them to key research tools and experiential learning activities. The fellowship is designed to foster the connections that studies have repeatedly shown lead to success in college and beyond: a strong network of faculty and staff advisors and mentors, friends and peer mentors, and an intellectual community.

Individual LAS faculty may nominate up to two outstanding rising juniors and/or seniors who have demonstrated interest in doing research. We are looking for mature students who have a genuine passion for interdisciplinary academic work and who are open to the experience of delving more deeply into a given field. Students need to have capacity for sustained independent academic work.

Students should have a topic or general area of interest that they hope to explore and turn into a research project, but they do *not* have to have an already fully-developed project, since the research methods course is designed to help them articulate and narrow their research questions and devise a practical work plan that can be accomplished during the summer.

Each faculty member should nominate **no more than two students**. **Please speak directly with students whom you wish to nominate** to ensure they are willing to take the summer course and complete the research project.

Faculty may nominate a student by submitting a letter that addresses the following prompts:

1. Please describe, as specifically as possible, what you know about the student's academic work, enthusiasm for research, and promise as a scholar.
2. Please describe the student's potential research interests.
3. Please describe this student's ability to complete written assignments on time and their capacity for independent work.
4. Please describe how this student will contribute to diversifying the academy.
5. Please describe why you support awarding this individual.
6. Please end your letter with your full contact information, including your name, rank and academic unit at DePaul, email address, and phone number.

Faculty may submit their letters of nominations between February 12 and March 4 to the STRC at strc@depaul.edu.

Once nominations have been received, the STRC will contact students individually and ask them to submit a brief application describing their potential research topics and interests.

Nominations open on Feb. 12 and close Mar. 4. Students will be invited to apply on or around March 11. Student applications will close April 2. Awards will be conferred by April 19.

Please note: Faculty who nominate an undergraduate for participation in the program are *not* making a commitment to mentor the student directly throughout the summer. The research methods course will provide students with guidance and mentorship throughout the summer as they do their research and writing. Nominating faculty may of course continue to mentor students if they wish, and this is quite welcome, but they are not responsible for ensuring that students complete the research project.