

Overview of Criteria for Evaluating SURF Applications

1) Student Qualifications (0-3 points)

This may include GPA, appropriate pre-requisites to conduct this specific research, recognition of skills that need to be learned in order to conduct the research (e.g. learn a software package, background readings, etc.)

2) Basic understanding of field (0-3 points)

Applicant should demonstrate at least a basic understanding of the current state of the field as it relates to the proposed project. The level of understanding may vary between lower and upper division students and for those conducting research in their major vs. those just starting in a field.

3) Clear Research Question or Objective (0-2 points)

Applicant should identify either a clear research question OR objective. Does the student identify a research question or objective? Is the research question or objective clearly stated?

4) Expectations or Hypotheses (0-3 points)

The applicant should articulate a set of expectations or hypotheses that they wish to test or explore. Does the student articulate research expectations or hypotheses? Are the expectations or hypotheses clear and testable?

5) Research Design and Methodologies (0-5 points)

Is the project designed appropriately (experiment, archival, focus groups, survey, data analysis, etc.)? Are the methodologies adequate to obtain, or at least adequately test, desired outcomes? If appropriate, are there alternate scenarios or plans if the initial phase does not yield expected results?

6) Doable within the SURF term (0-2 points)

While students often continue working on the project beyond the SURF term, the project itself should fit within the ten-week window of SURF (as demonstrated through the timeline, etc.)

7) Timeline (0-2 points)

The applicant must produce a specific project timeline. This timeline should be specific, realistic, and well-thought through.

8) Potential Impact on Student Success (0-2 points)

This section provides an opportunity for students to explain some of the potential benefits of participating in SURF for them personally, academically, and for future plans such as graduate school or careers.

9) Faculty Mentor Engagement (0-3 points)