Research Experience for Undergraduates

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Presentation Outline

Background

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Application Process

Program Details

Tips for REU Applications

Closing Statements
The Objective

- The Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program supports active research participation by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the National Science Foundation.
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- REU projects involve students in meaningful ways in ongoing research programs or in research projects specifically designed for the REU program.
- This program facilitates collaboration for undergraduate students to conduct research for six to ten weeks.
The Objective Cont.

- During the summer, REU sites prepare weekly activities and workshops to develop professional skills in academia.
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The Objective Cont.

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- This experience also funds the undergraduate participants to display their research at a conference of their choice.
- This presentation will describe the REU mathematics application process.
Eligibility for REUs

- Undergraduate student participants in either REU Sites or REU Supplements must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or U.S. permanent residents.
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- Students that are curious about a career in math can see opportunities in academia and industry.
Application Materials

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- Depending on the REU, you can either apply on the institution’s math website or through mathprograms.org.
- Most programs ask you to submit a
  - Cover Letter
  - Unofficial Transcripts
  - Two Letters of Recommendation
  - Statement of Purpose
Program Details

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▶ Students are paid around $4000-$5500 throughout the project.
▶ Each program takes place for about six to ten weeks with eight to twelve undergraduate researchers.
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► Participants live with each other at the dormitories at the university of their REU site.
Program Details Cont.

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- REU sites hold weekly workshops where students will develop professional math skills such as typing in LaTeX, speaking professionally about mathematics research, and coding in math software.
REU Information Talk
Program Details Cont.

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- After the REU, the organizers fund the students to present their findings at a mathematics conference of their choice.
Program Details Cont.

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▶ After the REU, the organizers fund the students to present their findings at a mathematics conference of their choice.

▶ The undergraduate students can continue to work with their mentors after the program. Once finished, the mentors will help the undergraduates submit their research to a mathematics journal for publication.
Application Tips

- Start your REU applications once your winter semester starts. This gives you time for your letter writers to say good stuff about you, allows you to find all REUs that align with your interest, and allows you to keep up with your classwork in the meantime.
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- Take as many upper division math courses that you can. REU sites will have many projects in pure and applied mathematics. So, having background will help a student better understand their project.
Find a math topic that you are truly interested in and apply to projects that share your interests.
Application Tips Cont.

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- Since applications are free, apply to as many REUs that you can.
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- Since applications are free, apply to as many REUs that you can.
- Your application materials for the REUs can be used for your graduate degree applications in the future.
Further Questions

- You can find a list of REUs in math at https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/list_result.jsp?unitid=5044
  - It should be the first result when you type ’math REUs’.
- If you have further questions about applying please contact me at rvicente@hawaii.edu.