

2009 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program Population Research Center and Department of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin

The Population Research Center of the University of Texas at Austin, in collaboration with the Department of Sociology and with funding from the National Science Foundation, is pleased to announce the 2009 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program. The REU program offers talented undergraduates an opportunity for classroom training and hands-on research experience during a 2-month session on the University of Texas-Austin campus.

What is the REU? The REU program hosts ten very select undergraduates from both UT-Austin and from around the United States for 2 months during the summer and introduces them to careers in social science through an intense academic program focusing on social demography—the scientific study of human populations from a sociological perspective. The program features a 5-week upper division sociology course, worth 3 credit hours, on the social demography. In addition to the 5-week course, REU students will be introduced to statistical computing and research ethics at the UT Population Research Center (PRC). The PRC is the foremost research institute for population studies in the Southwestern United States. Over the summer, REU students will be expected to develop a research project and to produce a scholarly paper on a topic of his/her choosing, which will be later be presented at a regional demographic conference in the fall semester following the REU summer. **STUDENTS SELECTED INTO THIS PROGRAM WILL BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND, AND WILL BE REIMBURSED FOR, THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE FALL SOUTHERN DEMOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.**

REU summer program dates are June 3, 2009 through August 7, 2009. REU students live and dine together over the summer in a UT dormitory. You may arrive as early as May 30th and depart as late as August 18th. A mandatory orientation will be held on the morning of June 3rd. Registration will provide access to all UT sports and recreation facilities, shuttle bus and Capital Metro transportation, and a wide range of entertainment events in the Austin community. REU students will also be part of the UT Population Research Center and Sociology Department community, with a ready-made set of faculty members and fellow students eager to introduce them to the collegiality of academic life. Students are encouraged to make the most of their stay in Austin and use the extra time outside the program dates to enjoy the city and all it has to offer.

The REU program pays for tuition, room and board, computer expenses, and books. In addition, students also receive a \$3,000 summer stipend for participation in the program, which should allow the selected students to fully concentrate on their REU experience over the 2-month program. Students will receive an additional \$1,000 stipend after presenting a paper at the annual SDA meeting in fall 2009.

Who is eligible to be an REU student? This program is open to US citizens and permanent residents. Undergraduates who have completed requirements for sophomore or junior standing are eligible to apply, with the ideal time for REU being the summer between the junior and senior year. Preference is also given to applications from students with some statistical/methodological training, those who declare sociology as a major, and/or those who are participating in a social science honors program at their home institution. Students who have excellent grades, a serious interest in thinking about graduate school *in the social sciences*, and a thematic interest in minority group well-being and demography are especially encouraged to apply. A letter of reference from a nominating faculty member will also be given serious weight in our selection decisions.

How do interested students apply for the REU program? THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS Friday, February 27th, 2009. Applicants should submit: (1) a completed application form, (2) a current resume, (3) college transcripts (*official transcripts not required for UT Austin students*); and (4) one letter of recommendation from a nominating faculty member. The application packet should be mailed to:

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