SURF 2018 Program
Overview, Requirements, and Policies

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SURF Graduate Assistants (GA)

IMPORTANT
As a SURF participant, you are responsible for fulfilling all program requirements and abiding by all policies presented in this document. Read it carefully and seek clarification as needed. While the content is subject to change, the most current version will be available on Blackboard.

SURF is an intensive 11-week program to advance students’ research potential. During the program, you will conduct research activities 40 hours per week including attending and participating at SURF seminars and events and completing assignments. Throughout the summer, you will receive support from your professor and graduate student mentor in the lab, and from a SURF GA.

SURF Goals and Participation

The SURF program is designed for students interested in pursuing a research career and focuses on the following goals:
1. Expose you to cutting-edge research studies by providing you a hands-on research experience
2. Develop your knowledge of the research process and tools used by professional researchers
3. Increase your proficiency in technical communication, i.e. writing and presentation skills
4. Help you connect your summer experience with your future goals, with particular focus on post graduate education

A Week in the Life of SURF

The SURF program has a predictable structure to allow you to plan your research. A complete schedule of seminars and events is available on Blackboard.
In a typical week in SURF, you can expect to:
- Conduct research characteristic of real-world challenges and advanced-level projects
- Meet with your professor and lab mentors for guidance
- Attend the weekly required SURF professional development seminar(s)
- Choose to attend a research seminar or an optional professional development seminar
- Complete required SURF assignments and submit your work on Blackboard
- Engage with other students socially and professionally thru peer reviews and networking events
Getting Started in SURF

Blackboard

The SURF program uses Purdue’s Blackboard Learn (BB) to support your learning and research experience this summer. To log into the SURF 2018 Blackboard site, use your Purdue Career Account at http://mycourses.purdue.edu. You should access this site multiple times each week throughout the summer. It is the primary source of information for your SURF experience and is organized in the following sections:

- **Announcements**: Read time sensitive information
- **Assignments, Seminars, and Activities**: Download weekly assignments and submit your work; find Professional Development Seminars (PDS), Research Seminars (RS), and other major SURF event information including time, location, and speaker info
- **My Progress**: Review feedback on submitted work from your SURF GA and check your attendance record for professional development and research seminars

Contact your SURF GA with questions about accessing and submitting information on Blackboard.

Communication

Your GA and other members of the SURF staff are available to assist you throughout the program. You are encouraged to meet with your GA in person, but they are always available via email. You will also have opportunities to talk with the SURF staff before and after SURF events and activities. You can find your GA’s contact information on BB “Meet Your GA” page.

SURF will use email and BB to share information with you. Please be sure to read your email daily. For last minute program changes, an email or a BB announcement will be sent to you. It is your responsibility to read your emails and check BB regularly for the most up to date SURF information.

When communicating through email, use the following guidelines to ensure prompt responses:

- Clearly state the issue in the email **subject line**:
  1. Begin with: SURF, and provide a summary of the topic
     - Example: SURF – Issue with Blackboard
  2. If the situation requires an immediate response, include **URGENT** in the subject line

*The staff will respond to your email within 24 hours.*
Professional Development Seminars/Workshops

All professional development activities (i.e. workshops, seminars, and assignments) are designed to support you this summer in both your research work and career planning, and help you make the most of your SURF experience. You can find the seminar schedule on Blackboard.

You are required to attend the Professional Development Seminars marked ‘Attendance Required’ on Blackboard. They are typically on Monday morning from 9:00-10:20 AM, but there are some exceptions so be sure to check Blackboard and mark your calendar in advance.

IMPORTANT!
Use of electronic devices is NOT permitted, and they must be silenced and stored away during all seminars unless otherwise directed.

Professional development activities address three main areas throughout the summer:
- Getting Started on Your Research Project
- Presenting, Publishing, and Documenting Your Work
- Preparing for Your Career and Graduate School

Getting Started on Your Research Project

The professional development seminars and assignments at the beginning of the program are designed to get you oriented in your lab and to provide you with the tools necessary to fully understand your research project. The seminar topics and assignments focus on conducting a literature search, writing a literature review, and getting research advice from Purdue faculty.

Publishing, Presenting, and Documenting Your Work

To be successful in research, you must document and share your work with the research community. This typically involves presenting your work at a conference and publishing it in a technical journal. Your research paper and presentation at the SURF Symposium are designed to prepare you for both of these aspects of research.

The professional development seminars and assignments in the second half of the program will help you:
- Practice sharing your research with a general audience and giving peer reviews
- Write an abstract of professional quality that you will post on Purdue e-Pubs as part of the SURF Research Symposium proceedings. http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/surf/
- Create a scientific poster or oral presentation of a quality suitable for a professional conference
- Present your work at the SURF Research Symposium (Thursday, August 2)
- Write a technical paper in the format and quality of a conference or journal paper
Preparing for Your Career and Graduate School

Other seminars during the program will help you with your career decisions and answer such questions as, Should I pursue a research career in academia? What are the benefits of obtaining a graduate degree? What are the pros and cons of a faculty career? Workshops will also be offered on topics such as writing a statement of purpose, resume, and application for graduate fellowships, etc.

Throughout the summer, take advantage of opportunities to discuss career options with your professor, lab mentors, and SURF GAs. They will gladly share their experiences and tips with you.

SURF Weekly Assignments

SURF assignments are designed to help you stay on track with your research project and meet SURF requirements. For each assignment, you will use Blackboard to access instructions and supporting materials, submit completed work, and review feedback from your SURF GA. All assignment-related information is listed on the “Assignments, Seminars, and Activities” page on BB. When information is available on BB, you will be able to click on the assignment name to view instructions and the submission page.

The policies and procedures for assignments are strictly followed throughout the program.

- Submitted work is due on Fridays at 11:59 PM (unless otherwise stated).
- Any late submissions need to be discussed with your SURF GA prior to the due date.
- All required work is to be uploaded to BB as instructed in each assignment.
- Any submitted work that your SURF GA finds unacceptable (e.g. incomplete, poorly written, does not follow instructions) must be redone to meet an acceptable quality.
- Students who continue to submit late or unacceptable work are subject to removal from SURF.

Attendance Policy for Required Events

SURF seminars have been carefully selected to support you in your research, professional development, and career planning. They are a major component of the SURF program; therefore, SURF holds a strict attendance policy to minimize disruptions and to ensure students benefit from scheduled events. Keep in mind that you must attend the entire seminar to receive credit for attendance.

When attending seminars, you should:

- Arrive at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start time
- Find your GA and check-in (Students who fail to check-in prior to the start of the seminar will be marked absent and may need to complete a Make-Up Task.)

IMPORTANT

An absence from a mandatory seminar requires completion of a Make-Up Task. Students with two absences (excused or unexcused) will require a meeting with their GA. Students who continue to miss seminars are subject to removal from SURF.
**Absences**

You need to gain permission from the SURF office at least 5 days prior to the event if you cannot attend a required event. For emergencies, contact your SURF GA as soon as possible.

**Late Arrivals**

Students arriving after the seminar start time are considered late. **All late arrivals will be documented as unexcused absences** and may require completion of a Make-Up Task.

If you arrive late to a seminar:
- Enter quietly and **take the nearest available seat** (minimize your disruption of the seminar)
- Do not check in with your GA during the seminar
- Talk to your GA **after the seminar**

**Making up a Missed Seminar**

If you are absent or late to a mandatory professional development seminar (excused or unexcused), you are required to **thoroughly review the seminar materials and complete a Make-Up Task** to ensure that the key information from the seminar has been learned. Your SURF GA will email you with Make-Up Task information. **The task must be completed by the specified due date.**

**Medical Absence during SURF**

If you are ill and cannot make it to the lab, contact your professor or other lab members immediately to let them know. **If you are out sick more than 3 days, contact the SURF program manager and provide a doctor’s note about the situation.**

**Research Seminars**

The SURF program holds a series of research seminars, each of which focuses on the work of a Purdue professor or research group. The research seminar series will expose you to:

1. The interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of research
2. Interesting topics outside your discipline
3. A broad range of important challenges that are being undertaken on the Purdue campus

Through these presentations, you may discover:
- The motivation and passion behind a research career, and new inspiration for your own research
- A new interest or direction for you to pursue in the future
- A collaborative approach to solving a research problem
- A new research technique or tool to incorporate into your work

**You are required to attend at least 4 research seminars in total.** Plan and mark your calendar to include your top seminar choices. For more details about these seminars and their topics, visit the “Assignments, Seminars, and Activities” page on BB.

**At all research seminars, you must sign in before the beginning of each seminar.** Late arrivals will NOT receive attendance credit. **Use of electronic devices is NOT permitted, and they must be silenced and stored away.**
**Evaluation of Program Completion**

Throughout the summer, your progress is tracked and evaluated. Additionally, there are two critical checkpoints where you will be evaluated for continuation and completion of the program.

**Mid-Program Evaluation**

At the mid-point of the program, you will be evaluated on your research progress and continuation in the program. By then, you should be strongly engaged in your research and on track to complete the SURF program.

For the evaluation, you must:

- Receive a satisfactory report from the supervising faculty member (SURF will obtain from the professor.)
- Attend required SURF professional development activities to date
- Submit and satisfactorily complete all required assignments to date
- Attend at least two research seminars to be on track to meet the required minimum of 4

**End of Program Evaluation**

At the end of the program, you will be evaluated on your successful completion of all program requirements.

**Fun Stuff**

**SURF Soccer Tuesday** 🏆

SURF has an outdoor soccer league and tournament! Games are played on Tuesday nights. Teams will consist of 6-8 people; no experience is required. Your professor and graduate student mentors are welcome to join—feel free to invite them! SURF GAs will manage the soccer league. Rules and league information will be on the SURF website.

**Groupme**

SURF staff will setup groups on Groupme for you to join. You can use Groupme to connect with other students, plan fun activities over the weekend, holidays, etc. Groupme is only a platform, and SURF staff will not be directly involved in those activities. If you and other SURFers have common interests, we encouraged you to create your own groups. More information will be available during the Orientation meeting on the first day of SURF.
Requirements for 2018 SURF Participants

In order to successfully complete the program AND receive the full summer stipend, each participant must fulfill the program requirements. Throughout the summer, each student's participation will be evaluated for continuation in the program.

As a participant in the 2018 SURF program, you are required to:

✓ Commit yourself to the research project and establish a weekly research schedule with your professor to engage in research activities 40 hours a week (including SURF required seminars) during the 11-week program period
  
  Note: You may not take classes or vacations while participating in the program.

✓ Gain approval from the SURF office and your professor to be absent from the lab to attend off-campus professional activities, for example, a technical conference

✓ Attend the SURF orientation and other required events, and at least 4 research seminars

✓ Submit all SURF assignments on time

✓ Write a research abstract and post the final version to Purdue e-Pubs scholarly repository

✓ Write a technical paper on your summer project by Friday, August 3

✓ Present your research AND actively participate in the SURF Research Symposium (Week 11)

✓ Demonstrate professionalism by being on time to scheduled events and actively participate

✓ Plan and make arrangements with your professor or graduate mentor to be excused from the lab to attend SURF activities

You are also expected to:

✓ Take a proactive approach to your work and use this opportunity to develop your research skills

✓ Develop good relationships with your research mentors and colleagues

✓ Ask questions and seek assistance in the lab and from the SURF staff to meet your educational and professional goals

✓ Communicate immediately with your professor and the SURF staff any changes to your participation status during the program

✓ Take advantage of all resources available to you in order to get the most out of your summer research experience