2019 SURF Program

Goals of SURF

1) Expose students to cutting-edge research studies by providing them a hands-on research experience
2) Develop their knowledge of the research process and tools used by professional researchers
3) Increase their proficiencies in technical communication, i.e. writing and presentation skills
4) Help students connect their summer experience with their future goals, with particular focus on post-graduate education

Components of SURF

- Research activities in the lab under the guidance of a professor and graduate student
- SURF Seminars and Assignments
  - Professional development seminars (weekly)
  - Research seminars (4 required to complete program)
  - Weekly assignments relevant to the research process, e.g. abstract, technical paper
- Orientation (May 20) & end of program banquet (August 2)
- SURF Research Symposium (August 1), which replicates a conference experience
- Networking activities to engage with other student researchers

SURF Program Structure

SURF is a full-time research position where students engage in research activities for 40 hours per week for 11 weeks. The program has a structured schedule to support the students throughout the summer. Students spend a majority of their time in the research environment on an assigned project. In addition, students participate in professional development activities that support them in both their research work and future career decisions.

The weekly Professional Development Seminars are typically scheduled at 9:00 AM on Mondays and are 1 – 1 ½ hours in length.

Professional development activities focus on three main areas for the students:
- Getting Started on their Research Project
- Documenting, Presenting, and Publishing their Work
- Preparing for their Career and Graduate School
**Weeks 1 - 4**

The professional development seminars and required tasks for the first couple of weeks will help students get oriented in their lab and provide them with the tools necessary to understand their research project so they can get started and be productive.

**Key Seminar Topics:**
- Conducting a Literature Search
- Writing a Literature Review
- Faculty Panel – Getting research advice from faculty

**Student Primary Tasks:**
- Meet your Mentors: Settle into the research environment, define research goals
- Conduct Literature Search
- Write a Literature Review

**Weeks 5 - 9**

To be successful in research, students must share their work with the research community. During these weeks, students will learn to tailor their research presentation to a specific audience and organize their summer research into a presentation and technical paper.

**Key Seminar Topics:**
- Abstract Workshop
- Preparing a Scientific Poster or Talk
- Conveying Research Findings to a Lay Audience

**Student Primary Tasks:**
- Write an abstract of professional quality, submitted on Purdue e-Pubs in Week 9
- Create a scientific poster or oral presentation for SURF Symposium
- Draft a technical paper in the format of a conference or journal paper
- Practice sharing your research with a general audience and giving peer reviews

**Weeks 10 - 11**

Students will continue to work on their research project, prepare for their research presentation, and finalize their technical paper.

**Key Seminar Topic:**
- Symposium – Practice and Preparation

**Student Primary Tasks:**
- Present research findings at the SURF Symposium on August 1
- Submit a technical paper in the format and quality of a conference or journal paper