

The SMART Program at the University of Colorado at Boulder

The Summer Multicultural Access to Research Training (SMART) program is a 10-week research internship that prepares undergraduates for graduate programs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields. Each summer, 25 students from institutions nationwide participate in research and attend weekly workshops on scientific writing and presenting, GRE preparation, and the application process for graduate school. Under the guidance of faculty mentors, students carry out and formally present individual research projects in their area of interest.

Faculty Mentors

The CU-Boulder faculty members serve as mentors for the SMART interns' research projects. Mentors, who volunteer their time, are chosen for their excellence in research and scholarly work and their commitment to undergraduate research. The mentors themselves review applications and select SMART interns. Most interns take part in the ongoing research programs of their mentors. SMART students receive information about their mentor and his or her research when they are accepted into the program.

SMART Academic Areas:

Interns may conduct research in 18 academic areas. These areas include:

- Aerospace Engineering Sciences
- Applied Mathematics
- Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences
- Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
- Behavioral Genetics
- Biology: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- Biology: Integrative Physiology
- Biology: Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology
- Chemical and Biological Engineering
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electrical, Computer and Energy Engineering
- Geological Sciences
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Neuroscience
- Physics
- Telecommunications

Selection

The SMART program is an introduction to research at a major research institution; students are not expected to have prior research experience. However, students must demonstrate strong academic abilities and the maturity to work independently. Typically, students with less than a 3.0 GPA are not admitted.

Eligibility

Students Must:

- Be 18 years or older
- Be U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- Be members of racial/ethnic groups severely underrepresented in science, math, and engineering (African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native/ Native Pacific Islander), or be first-generation college students who are economically disadvantaged
- Have completed their second year of undergraduate study (the equivalent of 60 semester credit hours) by June of the year during which they apply
- Not earn a BA/BS before December of the year they participate

Financial Compensation

Participants receive:

- Round-trip travel
- Room and board in a campus residence hall
- Upper-division independent study credit
- A competitive stipend

SMART Student Application Instructions

A complete SMART application consists of:

- The 2012 application form
- A statement of interest (guidelines below)
- Two letters of recommendation and recommendation forms
- Transcripts from all institutions attended – *transcript should include Fall 2011 grades*
- FAFSA – Student Aid Report (SAR) - *optional*

Statement of Interest

Please describe on separate sheets (2-3 typed pages) your interest in the SMART program. Your personal academic statement should explain why you want to participate in the SMART program, what you hope to gain from the program, and how this research experience will help you achieve your academic and career goals. Your statement should include a description of:

- Your specific research interests
- Any relevant research experience you have had in an academic or work setting
- Your goals beyond earning a baccalaureate degree
- The qualities you would contribute to the SMART program and how those qualities would benefit both the program and its participants

Please note that the statement of interest is the most important part of your application. Successful applicants are those who can demonstrate an understanding of research topics in their field and can express a particular interest in one or two areas available at CU-Boulder. SMART staff members are available to answer any questions applicants may have regarding their statements of interest. Please make use of this resource.

Please type your name on your statement of interest, and make sure that the print is clear enough to be legible when photocopied or scanned.

Transcripts

Please submit a student copy of your transcripts with your application and have official transcripts from all institutions you attended sent directly to the SMART office. If you prefer, your registrar can e-mail us your transcript by sending it to smart@colorado.edu. *Please note: Your Fall 2011 courses and grades should be reflected in the transcript you send us.*

2012 Program Dates

June 4 – August 10*

Application Deadline

Application materials must be postmarked no later than **February 15**.

Applicants should send all information to:

SMART Program
University of Colorado
UCB 347
Boulder, CO 80309-0347

For more information, please visit www.colorado.edu/SMART or contact the SMART office at the University of Colorado at Boulder: 303-735-3122 or at smart@Colorado.edu

* If you are on the quarter system, please let us know so we can discuss accommodations.