

Applying for Summer Research Programs

There are many summer research programs available. If you are thinking about applying for one, ask yourself some questions. What are selection committees looking for in an application/candidate?

- Will you be an asset to the team?
- Your knowledge, skills, abilities, qualifications, attitude, behaviors, and maturity.
- Problem solving skills.
- Critical thinking skills.
- Communication skills- both written and verbal.
- Understanding of the program and its requirements.
- Ability to work alone or in a group.
- Attention to detail.
- Learn from failure, persistence.
- Ability to learn from feedback.
- Curiosity, motivation, and enthusiasm.

1. **Resume/CV-** this document is a summary of your educational and professional history.
 - a. Make your resume/CV easy to read. The reader should be able to find important information quickly.
 - b. List relevant research and/or internship experience or any publications or presentations given.
 - c. Include demonstrated attributes, skills, and accomplishments that you gained through classes, labs, training, etc.

including hobbies and/or objectives.

What are you most interested in a particular opportunity or institution to which you are applying?

What are your academic or research interests?

What has made you become interested in this field or research?

What activities or experiences have you had that have contributed toward your interest?

What is your motivation for, or understanding of this field or research area?

What are your aspirations?

What do you think the selection committee will find compelling about you?

How can you turn weaknesses into strengths, use mistakes as a learning experience. How did you overcome challenges and come back stronger?

- d. This is a writing sample; it should be well organized, concise, and free of any grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. Edit. Proofread and proofread again.

Tip: Answer the question. Address the topic.

3. **Letters of Recommendation**- shed light on who you are as a person from someone who knows you well. These letters c