

**2022 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program:  
Undergraduate Research in Race, Ethnicity, and Family Demography**  
Population Research Center and Department of Sociology,  
The 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 2022 Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program. The REU program offers talented undergraduates the opportunity for classroom training and hands-on research experience during an 8-week session on The University of Texas at Austin campus.

**What is the REU?** The REU program hosts eight very select undergraduates from both The University of Texas at Austin and from around the United States for 8 weeks 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 seminars on racial and ethnic differences in cohabitation, marriage, divorce, marital and nonmarital fertility, for both different and same-sex couples. In addition to the seminars, 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 are expected to develop an independent research project and to produce a scholarly paper or a policy brief on a topic of their choosing, which will later be presented at a research conference in the Fall of their REU summer. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in a professional conference in the fall.

REU summer program dates are June 2, 2022 through July 22, 2022. REU participants will be part of the UT Population Research Center and Sociology Department community, with a readymade set of faculty members and fellow students eager to introduce them to the collegiality of academic life.

REU participants will receive a \$4,000 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. The REU program will also pay for room and board, assuming the program is offered face-to-face. Participants who chose to present their paper at the fall 2022 conference will be provided an additional stipend and travel allowance.

**The actual parameters of the program may change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Ideally, REU participants will live and dine together over the summer in a UT residence hall and may arrive as early as May 28. A mandatory orientation will be held on June 1. Participation in the REU program will allow students access to all UT sports and recreation facilities, shuttle bus and Austin Capital Metro transportation, and a wide range of entertainment events in the Austin community. 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. It is also likely that some portion of the summer experience will be virtual. If this happens, we will approach the summer with flexibility and creativity. **We should be in a better position to know what summer 2022 will look by April 2022.**

**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 students with some statistical/methodological training, who declare sociology as a major, and/or who are participating in a social science honors program at their home institution. We encourage applications from students from colleges and universities where research opportunities in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) are limited. Students who have excellent grades, a serious interest in attending graduate school in the social sciences, and a thematic interest in sociology family studies, or 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 FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

The application is online. It consists of 5 parts: personal statement, resume, transcript, online application, and faculty recommendation. Application information and instructions are found at the following link: [https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/prc/training/nsf\\_reu\\_site.php](https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/prc/training/nsf_reu_site.php)

Questions or comments may be directed to: [training@prc.utexas.edu](mailto:training@prc.utexas.edu)

This material is based upon work supported by the [National Science Foundation](#) under Grant No. SMA-1852556.