

2020 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 2020 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 UT-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 non-marital 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 will be expected to develop a research project and to produce a scholarly paper or a policy brief on a topic of his/her choosing, which will later be presented at a research conference or to local stakeholders by 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 1, 2020 through July 24, 2020. REU students live and dine together over the summer in a UT dormitory. You may arrive as early as June 1st. A mandatory orientation will be held on June 2nd. Registration will provide access to all UT sports and recreation facilities, shuttle bus and Capital Metro transportation, and a wide range of entertainment events in the Austin community. REU students will also be part of the UT Population Research Center and Sociology Department community, with a ready-made set of faculty members and fellow students eager to introduce them to the collegiality of academic life. 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.

The REU program pays for tuition, room and board, and computer expenses. In addition, students also 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. Students will receive an additional travel and stipend for presenting their paper at a professional conference in fall 2020.

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 applications from students with some statistical/methodological training, those who declare sociology as a major, and/or those 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, criminology, 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 29, 2020

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:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/prc/training/undergraduate.php>

Questions or comments may be directed to: training@prc.utexas.edu

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