

2021 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 2021 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 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 3, 2021 through July 23, 2021. REU students will 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.

REU students 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. Students will receive an additional travel (assuming it is face-to-face) and a stipend for presenting their paper at a professional conference in fall 2021.

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

Ideally, REU students will live and dine together over the summer in a UT dormitory. You may arrive as early as May 29th. 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. 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 2021 will look by April 2021.**

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 28, 2021

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

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

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