

REQUEST FOR MENTOR PROPOSALS

AURA Program

Issued: January 4, 2017

Due: NOON, February 1, 2017

Award Notification Date: March 17, 2017

TO: Faculty in the Sciences, Engineering, and Mathematics
FROM: Mark R. Hoffmann, Ph.D., ND EPSCoR Associate Project Director
RE: Advanced Undergraduate Research Awards (AURA)

The ND EPSCoR AURA program at the University of North Dakota (UND) provides undergraduate students with opportunities to experience academic research at a point in their college careers when they need to make important decisions about their future. It is expected that the AURA students will:

- become contributing members in their research groups;
- learn about the ethics of research;
- be mentored to pursue careers in science, engineering, or mathematics research;
- learn about research and graduate school opportunities in North Dakota; and
- be mentored to submit applications for nationally competitive scholarships like the Goldwater award.

Faculty Eligibility:

Must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member at UND; exceptions for long-term, non-tenure-track faculty must be approved by ND EPSCoR well in advance of deadlines. Individual PIs or multiple PIs working together in a research group can apply. Limit of two students per multi-investigator group and one per single investigator. The AURA mentor will be required to submit a proposal to one of the research directorates at the National Science Foundation by July 15, 2018.

Student Eligibility:

Students must have sophomore status by May 2017 and NOT graduate prior to May 2019. Students who have not had a previous AURA award will have priority. The purpose of AURA is to increase the number of students having research opportunities, rather than providing more depth for selected individuals. PIs are encouraged to identify funding opportunities for previous students through other sources. Students may not be enrolled in regular or correspondence courses and conduct AURA research during the summer months concurrently. However, they may be eligible to enroll in a summer independent study course for their research and receive academic credit. The independent study course must be approved by the faculty mentor.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria:

1. Description of how the student will enhance the PI's research program and contribute to the submittal of competitive research proposals.
2. Description of how the student will be mentored, including a well-defined plan for applying for competitive national research scholarships, fostering the student's interest in a research career, and the ethical conduct in research. Include summary of recent mentoring of students.
3. Description of resources available to support proposed student research.

Application and Review Process:

- PIs submit applications.
- ND EPSCoR posts research abstracts on our web page and issues a Call for Student Applications.
- PI proposals and student applications will be reviewed jointly by a committee that includes faculty of STEM disciplines and representatives from the Office of Research.

Submission Check List (two step process)

1. **MENTOR PROPOSAL:** Submit a single **PDF file** in the following order via email attachment to carla.kellner@research.und.edu
 - a. Cover sheet. Available at <http://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu>
 - b. Executive Summary (one page): a) project title; b) abstract describing the project objective (maximum of 250 words); and c) description of student role in the project (maximum of 150 words).

- c. Two-page proposal: describing (1) the research activities and the student participation and duties in the research; and (2) mentoring plan including expected outcomes of the mentoring experience. Please ensure that your AURA student is mentored in Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). The research and the mentoring plans should each be approximately one-page in length (single-line spaced, one-sided pages, one-inch margins, font size 10 point or larger).
- d. PI Current and Pending Support form (NSF format).

2. **Mentor Abstract Form:** Submit a single **WORD file** via email attachment. Form may be found online at <http://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu>

Number of anticipated awards: Up to six - eight (6-8)

Amount of student award: Maximum of \$5,000 for a total of ten (10) weeks during the time period of May 16 – August 15, 2017; maximum of \$1,500 for up to ten (10) hours/week during the fall semester (August 22 – December 31, 2017); and a maximum of \$1,500 for up to ten (10) hours/week during the spring semester (January 3, 2018 – April 30, 2018). An additional \$1,000 will be made available for faculty research supplies and student research-related travel support. The award also pays the fringe benefits.

Award is contingent upon continued funding from the NSF and the North Dakota State Legislature. Please direct questions to Mark R. Hoffmann, at 701.777.2492 or mark.hoffmann@und.edu