



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS  
Undergraduate Research Assistantship (URA) Program  
Issued: November 10, 2020  
Application Deadline: noon, November 30, 2020

[www.ndepscor.ndus.edu](http://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu)

*Limited Funding Available*

- [Application Form](#)
- [List of ND-ACES CCBSE Researchers](#)
- Center for Cellular Biointerfaces in Science and Engineering (CCBSE):  
<https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/ndepscorprograms/track-1-nd-aces-prime-institution-ndsu/>

**Purpose:**

This program gives junior and senior undergraduate students - from the 10 ND EPSCoR ND-ACES RII Track-1 participating campuses - three Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs), one Master's College/University (MCU), four Tribal Colleges/Universities (TCUs) located in ND, or the two Research Universities (RUs) - the opportunity to complete a STEM bachelor's degree while working in the ND-ACES Center for Cellular Biointerfaces in Science and Engineering (CCBSE) alongside NSF Track-1 faculty researchers on cutting-edge research projects (for more information, see the CCBSE website listed above).

**Eligibility:**

Eligible applicants must be U.S. citizens or resident aliens who will be junior or senior undergraduates during the award period in a STEM degree program, at one of the four participating TCUs located in ND – Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC), Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College (NHSC), Sitting Bull College (SBC) or Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC); one of three PUIs - Dickinson (DSU), Mayville (MaSU), or Valley City (VCSU) State Universities; the MCU – Minot State University (MiSU); or one of the two RUs - NDSU or UND.

**Priority will be given to:**

- TCU, MCU, or PUI students who are working to obtain a STEM bachelor's degree while working with a CCBSE researcher ([list of researchers](#)). A letter of support from that researcher must accompany your URA application;
- NDSU or UND students **who previously attended a TCU, MCU, or PUI** and are working to obtain a STEM bachelor's degree while working with a NDSU or UND CCBSE researcher ([list of researchers](#)). A letter of support from that researcher must accompany your URA application;
- Women or other underrepresented minorities who are working to obtain a STEM bachelor's degree while working with a CCBSE researcher ([list of researchers](#)). A letter of support from that researcher must accompany your URA application;
- Members of other historically underserved populations (i.e.: those who attended a rural high school or those with demonstrated unmet financial needs) who are working to obtain a STEM bachelor's degree while working with a CCBSE researcher ([list of researchers](#)). A letter of support from that researcher must accompany your URA application;
- Members of the above groups who are working to obtain a STEM bachelor's degree while working with a CCBSE researcher ([list of researchers](#)). A letter of support from that researcher must accompany your URA application;

- Prior to awarding two student applicants from one institution, the review committee will ensure that each of the 10 participating institutions with qualified student applicants, who meet the priorities listed above, has one student awardee; and
- Prior to awarding students at NDSU and UND, the review committee will ensure that there is sufficient URA funding for TCU, MCU and PUI student awardees. ND EPSCoR reserves the right to balance applicants between faculty mentors (one student per faculty) and between research universities: NDSU and UND.

**Program Description:**

The student awardee will conduct CCBSE research under the direction of a ND EPSCoR Track-1 researcher and maintain full-time enrollment in a STEM bachelor's degree program. The student awardee will be paid up to \$14/hour for up to 10 hours/week during spring and fall semesters and up to 20 hours/week during the summer. The student awardee must be a full-time student each fall and spring semester. Taking summer classes is encouraged but not required. Contingent upon federal and state funding, this award is for up to two years (January 16, 2021 – December 15, 2022).

Throughout their program, students are required to participate in a minimum of six virtual seminars each year that the ND EPSCoR State Office designed to enhance the student's research, professional development, and scientific communication skills. Students will also be required to produce a poster presentation and present it at the ND EPSCoR Annual State Conference.

Applications will be evaluated by the ND EPSCoR Tribal Colleges/University Liaison, STEM, and Communication managers.

**Application requirements**

- 1) Completed application form ([link provided at the top of this page](#)) including a 100-word (maximum) research objective. Email a PDF version of your full application to [ndepscor@ndus.edu](mailto:ndepscor@ndus.edu) with the subject: *Undergraduate Research Assistantship (URA) Application*
- 2) Letter of recommendation from a CCBSE Track-1 researcher. Researcher should email a letter of recommendation to [ndepscor@ndus.edu](mailto:ndepscor@ndus.edu) with the subject: *ND EPSCoR URA letter of support for (student name)*.
- 3) An email from the registrar's office confirming the degree program in which the applicant is currently enrolled and whether the applicant has achieved junior status prior to the start of the award. Send the email to [ndepscor@ndus.edu](mailto:ndepscor@ndus.edu) with the subject: *ND EPSCoR URA registrar letter for (student name)*.
- 4) An email from the financial aid office stating the amount of the applicant's unmet need for the current semester. Send the email to [ndepscor@ndus.edu](mailto:ndepscor@ndus.edu) with the subject: *ND EPSCoR URA financial aid letter for (student name)*.

**Award Announcements and Additional Information:**

Award announcements will be made on or about December 15, 2020. Funds are expected to be available for spring semester 2021. Awards are contingent upon continued funding from NSF and the State of North Dakota.

Please direct questions to Scott Hanson, ND EPSCoR Tribal Colleges/Universities Liaison Manager at 701.231.8606 or [scott.martin.hanson@ndus.edu](mailto:scott.martin.hanson@ndus.edu)