



## SURI Syllabus

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[All Sections](#)

### Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI) Description

The Summer Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI) is designed to introduce undergraduate students to academic research by conducting a faculty-mentored research project in their discipline over the course of nine weeks during the summer.

SURI participants attend weekly workshops for graduate school and career preparation, professional development, and attend weekly meetings with their research mentor. Students develop their skills to better understand their purpose at a research university and become familiar with research in their discipline. In practice, research methods vary greatly and depend on accepted standards in the discipline, the individual researcher's preferences, and/or the components of a particular study. At the end of SURI, students present their research in a variety of methods at UC Merced's Annual Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium.

### SURI Program Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this experience, student participants will:

1. Generate a clear research question or problem by identifying and demonstrating appropriate research methodologies, use of terminology, concepts, and theories in their field.
2. Identify common ethical challenges and practice responsible research by conveying awareness of cultural values, legal protections, policies, and regulations.
3. Apply critical thinking skills and be comfortable with the ambiguity of research, whether working autonomously or collaboratively to manage a project.
4. Gain confidence to communicate constructively with research mentors, graduate students, and faculty.
5. Develop skills to explain their research to experts in the field and broader audiences through research presentations.
6. Articulate the relevance of their participation in undergraduate research to make decisions about their future, whether for graduate school or the work force.

### SURI Weekly Activities

SURI Participants attend weekly meetings, workshops, and submit assignments based on overall themes for the week. The table below displays the nine weeks with themes, meetings, workshops, and assignments for SURI which coincide with the weekly modules. Each week develops the students understanding of their discipline and enhances their career and academic plans.

Week	Theme	Graduate School Prep	Developmental Series	Within Your Field	Due Wednesday	Due Saturday
1	<b>Making the Most of SURI</b>	Intro to Grad School	Student Perspective	Project Management & Library Research Training Sessions	UROC Bio Mentor, Roles & Expectations Survey	GRE Scores, Headshot Signup, CITI Course, Self Eval
2	<b>Becoming a Researcher</b>	Grad Admissions	Components of and Abstract	Dissecting Journals	Review Abstracts	Draft 1 Symposium Abstract
3	<b>Looking Beyond This Summer</b>	Grad School Search	Networking	GRE Review	Top 3 Grad Schools, Grad School Challenge	Outline SoP, Outline PHS
4	<b>Cultivating your Message</b>	Application Statements	Elevator Pitch	Building a Poster	Elevator Pitch	Draft SoP, Draft PHS
5	<b>Progress, Not Perfection</b>	Statements & Peer Review	Abstract & Poster Review	Independence Day Holiday	Draft 2 Symposium Abstract, Draft Symposium Poster	Final SoP, Final PHS
6	<b>Translating Your Research</b>	Creating a Strong CV	How to Communicate your Research	Research Writing	Research Related Challenge, Draft CV	Final Symposium Abstract
7	<b>Moving from Goals to Reality</b>	Funding Grad School	Conference 101	Peer Reviews	Create Your IDP	Final Symposium Poster
8	<b>Bringing it all Together</b>	Faculty Panel/ Asking for LOR	Importance of Research	Searching for Opportunities	Letter of Rec Email, Final CV	Symposium Presentations
9	<b>Your Best Self</b>	Symposium Practice	SURI Evaluation	Symposium Practice	Imposter Post Survey	*due Aug 1st* GRE Scores, Self Eval

## SURI Assessment

All SURI participants will complete a self-reported survey at the beginning and end of the institute to measure the student's personal and professional growth. Their research mentors will also complete evaluations of the student to provide feedback. Participants will also complete weekly workshop evaluations for program improvement and to assist UROC to better deliver quality information in the future.





