



# SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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## BSOS Summer Research Initiative (SRI) Overview and Application Instructions

### Overview of the BSOS Summer Research Initiative

The Summer Research Initiative (SRI) was created in 1999 by the Office of the Dean in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSOS). The program is designed to encourage and enhance the diversity of scholars working in the social and behavioral science fields. In that spirit, we are interested in receiving applications to the program from a broad spectrum of students, including African Americans, Latino/Hispanics, American Indian/Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, as well as all students with research interests related to diverse communities. We are most interested in students who plan to pursue doctoral degrees in the behavioral and social sciences.

The program provides rising juniors and seniors with an 8-week intensive experience to develop research skills, learn about doctoral training, and increase graduate training readiness.

Departments involved in the SRI include [African American Studies](#), [Anthropology](#), [Criminology & Criminal Justice](#), [Economics](#), [Geographical Sciences](#), [Government & Politics](#), [Hearing & Speech Sciences](#), [Program in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science](#), [Psychology](#), and [Sociology](#).

The **2021 BSOS SRI will be a virtual experience** (Zoom and phone) to decrease potential exposure to COVID-19. We piloted the virtual SRI experience in the summer of 2020 and student participants reported high satisfaction with the quality of the research experience and the helpfulness of the online seminars for their preparation for graduate school.

### Program Dates

The 2021 program dates are **Monday, June 7, 2021 - Friday, July 30, 2021**.

### Eligibility for Participation

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States;
- Be enrolled full-time at an accredited four-year higher education institution and obtain junior or senior status in the Fall 2021 academic year;
- Demonstrate an interest in pursuing graduate study in one of the behavioral or social sciences;
- Have taken a basic statistics or research methodology course; and
- Possess an excellent academic record, including a 3.0 or better cumulative GPA.

### Expectations for Participants

Under normal circumstances, the SRI is a full-time, 40-hour-per-week commitment. Therefore, students participating in the virtual SRI model must set aside considerable daytime hours during the week to participate in all the activities. Although the program is not in-person, participants are required to attend all virtual seminars and program events, meet virtually with mentors and research teams regularly, and complete all research and professional development assignments. Participants will be expected to work with their faculty mentor or research team to prepare and

share a video research presentation of their project at the end of the program. A high level of motivation, self-initiative, and ability to work independently is necessary for students to get the most out of the virtual summer training.

## Financial Support

Students will be provided a \$3,000 stipend (before taxes).

## Deadlines

Submit all applications materials, including letters of recommendation, transcripts, and résumé or curriculum vita (CV), through the appropriate application portal **in advance of the deadline**.

- The Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) Application, including the transcript upload: **February 10, 2021**.
- The UMD BSOS SRI Supplemental Application: **February 10, 2021**.
- The BTAA SROP letters of recommendation: **March 1, 2021**.

## Application Steps

### **Step 1: Complete the BTAA SROP Application**

Applicants must first complete the [BTAA SROP online application](#). The BTAA SROP application can be completed in one session or you may return later to finish it.

Applicants interested in the UMD BSOS SRI must be sure to **select the University of Maryland** as one of the universities that you would like to receive your SROP application (Task 9 of the application).

For technical problems or questions about the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) SROP common application, please contact the BTAA SROP Coordinator at [srop.coordinator@btaa.org](mailto:srop.coordinator@btaa.org).

### **Step 2: Identify BSOS Department Placements and Faculty Members**

Please visit the BSOS department websites below and identify up to three department placements that would be best for you and up to three faculty members whose work is of interest to you. The department placement and faculty member preferences are part of the supplemental application.

- [African American Studies](#)
- [Anthropology](#)
- [Criminology & Criminal Justice](#)
- [Economics](#)
- [Geographical Sciences](#)
- [Government & Politics](#)
- [Hearing & Speech Sciences](#)
- [Program in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science](#)
- [Psychology](#)
- [Sociology](#)

While we do our best to match students with their preferences, we cannot guarantee it since matches are made on the basis of faculty availability for the summer. However, providing us with faculty names and departments gives us information on the types of summer research topics that might be of interest or helpful to you. For applicants interested in placements in the Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences, the highest priority will be given to those who intend to pursue a research doctorate rather than the clinical M.A. or AuD.

### **Step 3: Write Your Personal Statement and Prepare a Current Résumé/CV**

You must have your BSOS SRI Supplemental Personal Statement and your résumé/CV ready to upload at the time you begin the BSOS SRI Supplemental Application. Be sure to carefully review the [BSOS SRI Supplemental Personal Statement Instructions](#) before you begin writing.

IMPORTANT: The BSOS SRI application portal does not allow applicants to save their work and return to complete it at a later date or time. Therefore, please have your documents ready to upload in PDF form before you proceed to Step 4 (below).

### **Step 4: Complete the BSOS SRI Supplemental Application**

Complete the [BSOS SRI Supplemental Application](#) and upload your completed résumé/CV and supplemental personal statement. Select “**BSOS SRI**” in the drop-down menu to access the application.

The BSOS SRI Supplemental Application must be completed in a single session. Therefore, it is important for you to review the [questions](#) from the BSOS SRI Supplemental Application before starting your application.

For substantive questions about the BSOS SRI Supplemental Application, please contact the BSOS SRI Director, Dr. Kim Nickerson, at [knick@umd.edu](mailto:knick@umd.edu).

For technical problems or questions about the BSOS SRI Supplemental Application, please contact Robyn Kotzker at [rkotzker@umd.edu](mailto:rkotzker@umd.edu).