



# SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

## BSOS Summer Research Initiative (SRI)

## Overview and Application Instructions

### Overview of the BSOS Summer Research Initiative

The Summer Research Initiative (SRI) is open to all undergraduate students who are currently enrolled in colleges and universities in the United States and the United States territories, and therefore all students are encouraged to apply. In addition, the program is also interested in encouraging and enhancing the diversity of scholars in the behavioral and social sciences.

The 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 social and behavioral science, practice, teaching, and policy fields. A diverse science workforce enables us to improve the science, broaden its application, and facilitate novel and creative innovations and solutions by including scholars with unique backgrounds, life experiences, language skills, understandings of and access to underserved communities, diverse perspectives, etc. Supporting diverse cohorts of students also enriches learning environments and is consistent with our university's overall mission.

The 2026 BSOS SRI is an 8-week, on-campus experience here at the University of Maryland, College Park. The program provides rising juniors and seniors with an intensive experience to develop research skills, learn about doctoral training, and increase graduate training readiness. Departments involved in the BSOS SRI include [African American and Africana Studies](#), [Anthropology](#), [Criminology & Criminal Justice](#), [Economics](#), [Geographical Sciences](#), [Government & Politics](#), [Hearing & Speech Sciences](#), [Program in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science](#), [Psychology](#), and [Sociology](#).

### Program Dates

The 2026 program dates are **Monday, June 1, 2026 - Friday, July 24, 2026**. However, all participants are required to arrive to our College Park campus on Saturday, May 30th for the required 2-day, pre-program orientation.

### Key Expectations for Participation

- Be citizens or permanent residents of the United States;
- Be enrolled full-time at an accredited four-year higher education institution, with preference given to those who will have obtained junior or senior status by the fall 2026;
- Demonstrate an interest in pursuing graduate study in one of the behavioral or social science

fields, with preference given to those interested in doctoral training;

- Express an interest in, or demonstrate a commitment to our program's aim to improve the research, practice, teaching, and policy work in the social and behavioral sciences by diversifying and broadening the participation of those involved social and behavioral science research;
- Will have taken a basic statistics or research methodology course; and
- Possess an excellent academic record, including a 3.0 or better cumulative GPA.

### **Full-time Program Participation is Required**

The Summer Research Initiative is a full-time, 40-hour-per-week commitment. Participants are **required** to reside in the university housing provided by the program and to participate in all SRI activities throughout the summer. Participation includes all SRI program and research activities and assignments and meetings with research and program mentors. Therefore, students should not register for summer classes, hold employment that interferes with their participation, or make other summer plans (e.g. vacation) that would interrupt their full and consistent immersion in the program during the 8-consecutive-week program period.

### **Financial Support**

Students will be provided a \$4,000 stipend (before taxes) and group dinners Monday-Friday provided on-site in the SRI lodging. Travel to College Park for the summer and return travel home, room, board, and program activities expenses are also covered by the BSOS SRI. Participants are placed in on-campus group housing.

### **Deadlines**

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

- The Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) Application and Transcript due: **February 10, 2026**
- The UMD BSOS SRI Supplemental Application due: **February 10, 2026**
- The BTAA SROP letters of recommendation due: **March 1, 2026**

*NOTE - For best consideration and to reduce the chance of missing or late letters, we strongly recommend having your letters of recommendation submitted to us by or on the application deadline of **February 10th**. However, the BTAA provides a grace period that allows letters of recommendation to be submitted as late as **March 1st**.*

### **IMPORTANT – Read before proceeding to the application steps below.**

- To apply to the UMD BSOS SRI in the BTAA SROP application portal, students must select the University of Maryland for us to access your BTAA SROP application. If you do not select the University of Maryland, we will not know that you wish to be considered for the UMD BSOS Summer Research Initiative.
- Please review the BSOS SRI supplemental application instructions and questions BEFORE starting your required supplemental application. The supplemental application is different from, and additional to, the BTAA SROP application.

## Application Steps

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

The 2026 UMD BSOS SRI is a summer program aligned with other similar Big Ten Academic Alliance's (BTAA) Summer Research Opportunity Programs (SROP). Therefore, 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 complete it.

### **Step 2: Prepare BSOS SRI Supplemental Application Materials**

To be considered for the BSOS SRI, all applicants must submit the **BSOS SRI Supplemental Application**, which consists of completing additional information about yourself as well as uploading an **expanded supplemental personal statement** and an updated **résumé or curriculum vita (CV)**. We urge you to carefully review the [BSOS SRI Supplemental Personal Statement Instructions](#) before you begin writing.

For questions about the BSOS SRI Supplemental Application, please contact the SRI Coordinator, Brittney Robinson, at [brobins7@umd.edu](mailto:brobins7@umd.edu).

### **Step 3: Identify BSOS Department Placements and Faculty Members**

The department placement and faculty member preferences are part of the BSOS SRI supplemental application. Please visit the BSOS department websites below to identify up to three department placement preferences that best meet your graduate training aspirations, as well as up to three faculty members whose work aligns with your interests and training goals. Please have your three department and faculty preferences selected before you proceed to Step 4 (below).

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

**IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER** - When searching for potential summer faculty mentors, please focus your attention on individuals who have 'professor' in their title. Faculty members who are lecturers, postdoctoral associates, research associates, etc., are less likely to assume the responsibility of mentoring students through research projects during the summer. While we do our best to match students with their preferences, we do not guarantee your first faculty or department placement choice. However, providing us with faculty and department preferences gives us an indication of the types of summer research topics that might be of interest or helpful to you.

IMPORTANT NOTE - 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 PhD rather than the clinical MA or AuD.

**Step 4: Submit the BSOS SRI Supplemental Application**

After completing steps 1-3 (above), please submit the [BSOS SRI Supplemental Application](#) and upload your expanded, supplemental personal statement and your updated résumé or CV.

For technical problems or questions about the BSOS SRI Supplemental Application, please contact Brittney Robinson, at [brobins7@umd.edu](mailto:brobins7@umd.edu).

***CAUTION:*** *Your application is not complete until you have submitted and completed **both** the BTAA and SRI supplemental application, along with the two letters of recommendation and personal statements. Best consideration is always given to complete applications.*