Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship
Allison Davis Research Fellowship

Second Summer Research Proposal Guidelines

Please meet with your mentors and, with their advice, draft a proposal for your research this summer according to the following guidelines. Remember that the fellowship funds you for 10 weeks of full-time research and that you will be expected to submit a substantial research paper (~25 pages) or the equivalent by August 22nd and to give a presentation of your work in September. This proposal, with your mentor’s signature, is due to Special Academic Programs by May 15.

A. Goals: What are your goals for this summer? What research and writing skills do you hope to develop? If you are working toward an honors thesis, how will this summer project fit into your yearlong project? Will you be preparing to apply to graduate school and/or for fellowships or jobs? What do you need to accomplish for those applications?

B. Activities and logistics: How and where do you plan to spend your time? If you will be traveling to different places, please include a rough itinerary. How will you stay in touch with your mentor?

C. Research Project: In about 500 - 750 words, not including the bibliography, please address the following:

1. Abstract: In 2-3 sentences, state your research problem, the key themes you intend to address, and the launching point for your project.

2. Research Problem: What is the general research problem that you plan to address? Why is it important? What gap will your research fill, what controversy does it address, or what generally accepted ideas does it challenge?

3. Research Question: What is the central research question you wish to investigate this summer? State your question explicitly. Do you have a working hypothesis?

4. Theory and Methods: Describe your plan for answering your research question. What methodology and what theory will you employ? Can you break your project down into smaller steps and provide a timeline for completing them?

5. Bibliography: Include a preliminary bibliography with 8 - 10 of your primary and secondary sources, using EndNote and formatted properly for your field.

Fellow’s signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________

Mentor’s signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________