

LSAMP Summer Undergraduate Research at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to apply for the LSAMP Program?

US Citizens or Permanent Residents who are African American, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander are eligible to apply for the LSAMP. Applicants must also be in good academic standing with a GPA of 2.75 or better and be a junior or a senior in the fall of 2014. Lastly, applicants must be majoring in a field of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

What are the application components and how do I submit the application?

A complete application includes the application form, a personal statement describing your interest in pursuing a graduate education in a STEM field, your resume, your transcript, and one letter of recommendation from a faculty member. The application form, personal statement, resume, and transcript can be submitted online by visiting <https://apply.rpi.edu/register/LSAMP2014>. The letter of recommendation must be sent by the recommender and be emailed to Heather Carbah at carbah@rpi.edu. The subject line of the email should read: LSAMP Recommendation – Student's Name. Once all components are received, you will receive a confirmation email notifying you that your application is complete.

Who should write a recommendation for me? What should they include?

One recommendation letter is required. The recommendation letter should be from a faculty member who can evaluate the applicant's academic potential. If an applicant has previously been involved in research, we suggest soliciting a recommendation from the professor who supervised that research. We recommend contacting professors **well in advance of the deadline** and ask if they feel able to provide a strong recommendation. A well-prepared recommendation should evaluate the applicant's strengths and weaknesses as well as potential as a researcher, communicate information about any relevant laboratory skills, and address general character. Recommendation letters must be submitted by the deadline, March 3, 2014. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure the letter is submitted by the deadline.

What should I address in my personal statement?

In your personal statement, please describe your interest in pursuing a graduate degree in a STEM field. It would be helpful to acknowledge how this research experience will help you in your pursuit of a graduate degree. The personal statement should be no longer than one page.

How will I know when my application is complete?

When all supporting materials have arrived, we will notify applicants that the application is complete. Applications will not be considered until **all** supporting documentation is received.

When will decisions be available?

Applicants will be notified of their acceptance status by mid-April.

What factors are considered in the evaluation process?

Admission to the Rensselaer LSAMP Program is based on a number of factors. We consider an applicant's academic record higher, research interests, their interest in a graduate degree, what the recommendation letter comments on the student's academic and research ability, and the availability of a faculty research mentor. All applications are evaluated by the program staff; top applications are then reviewed by potential faculty matches.

How many slots are available?

We expect to admit 8 participants this summer.

Who will my faculty research mentor be?

Applicants are encouraged to read about the research interests of potential faculty mentors by reviewing information on the corresponding departments' Web sites. Students must identify three faculty members whose research interests are similar to theirs. Every effort will be made to facilitate a pairing of faculty identified in the application essay; however, participants are not guaranteed to be paired with faculty identified in their application. To find faculty by research interest, visit: <http://faculty.rpi.edu/node/1118>.

What will I do during the research program?

Experiences differ from participant to participant, but the main point is to provide a scientific research experience similar to what graduate study would entail in each participant's field of interest. Participants will present their work at the end of the summer. In addition to performing research work, participants will participate in professional development seminars designed to provide LSAMP participants with information about research, graduation school preparation, and career preparation. Social events will also be held to provide students with a professional network amongst their LSAMP peers.

What are general expectations for participants?

Students should demonstrate a genuine interest in expanding academic knowledge in one's field of study. They should be committed to their research and conduct themselves professionally in and out of the lab. Be respectful and honor time commitments and research obligations. Students will be held accountable and reliable for one's contribution to the research project. Students are also expected to attend and participate in all of LSAMP activities.

Can I take a course during the summer session while I am a participant of the LSAMP Program?

No. Participants are expected to work 40 hours per week on their research project. This experience should be viewed similarly to a work experience.

What happens if I am selected to participate in the LSAMP program?

Students will be asked to confirm their participation. Upon their acceptance, participants will receive an acceptance package that will include logistical information regarding stipend, housing, meal plan, planned activities, and access to Rensselaer facilities. Participants will also receive the appropriate forms to process their stay at Rensselaer.

Am I allowed to depart early from the program?

Participants must commit to participate throughout the entire duration of the program. Therefore, please plan accordingly.

What type of housing is available to participants?

Participants are provided with on-campus housing in double room on campus for the duration of the program.

Should I bring a car?

The option of bringing a car is up to the participant. Rensselaer will not provide a parking pass. However, one is available for purchase. LSAMP participants will have access to ride the city bus transportation (CDTA) free of charge.

Will I have health coverage or access to a student health center during the LSAMP Program?

Students will **not** be provided with health insurance through this program. It is recommended that the student check if he or she will be covered under his/her school or family's plan during the summer. Please note students will have access to the Student Health Center should an emergency arise.

I don't see the answer to my question! What should I do?

We're happy to respond to any questions about the program that are not addressed here. Please email or call Heather Carbary at **Office:** 518-276-3048 or **Email:** carbah@rpi.edu