

The background of the slide is a black field filled with a complex, overlapping pattern of blue wireframe lines. These lines form various three-dimensional shapes, including rectangular prisms, cylinders, and other geometric forms, creating a sense of depth and architectural structure. The lines are thin and light blue, contrasting sharply with the dark background.

UROP Application Tips

What Makes a Good UROP Application?

- UROP Typically funds 50-60% of applicants
- Clearly explain your role in the project
- Provide evidence of a relationship between you and your mentor
- Thorough explanation of the project's significance
- Ask and explore a well-defined research question
- A realistic timeline and methodology





Project Description and Goals

Provide a description of your research proposal written in terms that can be understood by someone outside your field. In this section, include your project's overall objectives as well as the specific goals you plan to accomplish this semester. TIP: Feel free to use “I” as the review committee wants to understand your role in the project. This is especially helpful if your project is part of a larger project in your research group.

Project Description and Goals Tips



Start with an interesting fact or statistic



Provide some background on the problem and introduce and work that has already been completed



State your hypothesis and how you expect to address it in your research



Be sure to focus on your unique role in the project



Project Significance

- Explain (in general terms) why the information gained from this research project will be beneficial. What is the bigger picture of your research? What are the implications of this research relative to the field of study? This section should not focus on how this project and related funding would help you or your career goals.*

Project Significance Tips



Why is your research important?



How does it add or is it different from existing research in the field?



If this is an area that has not previously been studied much, discuss that here.



What is the bigger picture of the research?



How does the research contribute to research in the field.



We do not want to know how the research is important to you or what skills you will gain.



Methodology



- Clearly state how you plan to accomplish the goals listed in your project description section. Identify the specific steps, resources, and processes necessary to perform your research.

Methodology Tips



Describe the process of completing your research



What exactly will you do during your 10-week summer research?



Provide detailed steps of how the research will be accomplished



Discuss sources you will consult, resources you will use, questions you will ask, themes you will look for (this applies mostly for non-stem projects)



By looking at the methods, we should be able to have a very clear idea of what your summer research will look like day to day



Timeline



- Provide a detailed timeline that you plan to follow to complete your goals listed in the project description. This timeline should focus on the work that you will be doing this semester and not the overall timeline of the project. Timelines can be organized by week or phase.

Timeline Tips



Your timeline should mirror your methodology



The steps listed in your methodology should be mapped out here over the 10 week research period



You can break down the timeline by weeks, months, steps.



It is better to use bullets for this section rather than paragraph form.



Background Experience

- List any previous research experience, applicable course work, or other relevant experience you may have. TIP: If you have worked with your mentor previously or have had them in class, you can highlight that in this section.

Background Tips

- Start with any previous research experience with your UROP mentor
 - If you have experience with your mentor discuss skills you have learned in the lab and what you have done to date.
 - If you have research experience elaborate as much as you can. This is the most important info you can include in this section.
- Discuss previous research experience
- Discuss research you have conducted in class or labs and skills you have gained
- Discuss relevant coursework.
- **DO NOT mention any lack of experience in any part of the application. Always speak confidently.**



Bibliography

- List the source you have consulted while preparing this proposal, as well as any reference you cited within this application. Note - If you are writing your application in Microsoft Word (or a similar platform) and are using either endnotes or footnotes to make citations, they will not copy over into this application. Therefore, we recommend completing in-text citations. You can also number citations (i.e., (1)" in the text of the application and have the number (1) correspond to an entry in the bibliography section.

Bibliography Tips

- Don't just have a link to a website or a faculty member's grant proposal
- Have a minimum of 5 sources – most students have 10+ sources
- List sources you have consulted to write the proposal
- You may want to list sources you plan to consult during your research process
- **Format bibliography in your preferred citation format.**

What Makes a Good Recommendation Letter?



Your faculty mentor writes your UROP recommendation



Strong recommendations are usually about 1 page or 3 solid paragraphs



Highlights your skills, experience, contributions to the lab or research group



Mentions how long you have known each other and why they think you are a good candidate for the research position



Ask your mentor if they need anything from you to write a strong letter (this can be helpful with any recommendation letter request)

Examples: resume, list of awards and/or skills, transcript, other campus contributions