

SURI 2026 INFORMATION

I. OVERVIEW

West Chester University invites applications for our Summer 2026 Undergraduate Research Institute (SURI). The purpose of SURI is to:

- Increase the interest in and opportunities for undergraduate research and creative activity in all disciplines.
- Establish a community of undergraduate scholars, where students learn from one another and engage in faculty-led forums and workshops to develop basic skills in all aspects for conducting research and creative activity.
- Promote critical and analytical thinking skills that prepare undergraduate students for graduate-level studies and/or careers.

Selected applicants will receive a \$2500 stipend to conduct a research or creative activity project, in collaboration with a selected faculty mentor, over Summer Session 1, committing 37.5 hours/week over five weeks during Summer Session I 2026.

II. ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must be:

- A West Chester University undergraduate student who will remain enrolled at the university through the completion of Summer Session I.
- Able to contribute 37.5 hours/week for the program during its five-week duration.

III. FUNDING AND EXPECTATIONS

Students who participate in the five-week program will receive a research stipend of \$2,500.00. Students will be expected to:

1. Attend the SURI kickoff event on **Friday, April 24th, 2026 from 12:00-1:30PM in Sykes Student Union.**
2. Dedicate full-time commitment of 37.5 hours/week to SURI during Summer I 2026, **May 26-June 26, 2026.** This weekly work may be done in person or in a hybrid manner, depending on the agreement between the student and faculty mentor; however, we will be holding the weekly events on campus.
3. Respond to all requests for information from the SURI programs (RSVPing to SURI events, completing surveys, etc.).
4. Attend and present a poster and recorded lightening talk of your final SURI project at the closing event on **Monday, July 13th, 2026, from 10:00AM-12:30PM.**
5. Present your research/creative activity at the following Research and Creative Activities Day (if you are still enrolled as a student).

In addition to these SURI scholar expectations, we encourage SURI scholars to attend the weekly community building events during the Summer 2026 program.

Faculty mentors will receive a **1-credit payment** for the five-week program. This is not meant to be a per student payment; therefore, this payment will not increase for faculty members who decide to mentor more than one student. Faculty members will be expected to:

1. Attend the SURI kickoff event on **April 24th, 2026 from 12:00AM-1:30PM**
2. Dedicate 2-3 hours each week during Summer I to SURI scholars, including a weekly meeting with the SURI scholar (either virtually or in person)
3. Attend the SURI closing event on **July 13th, 2026 from 10:00AM-12:30PM**

In addition to these faculty mentor expectations, we welcome faculty mentors to attend the weekly community building events and field trip planned during Summer I 2025 (agenda will be forthcoming).

IV. SELECTION CRITERIA: Applicants will be selected through a competitive review process using one of the following rubrics:

A. Research Rubric:

Attribute	0= No Attempt	1 = Developing	2 = Competent	3 = Exemplary
Background				
Methodology				
Potential Outcomes and Implications				
Written Communication				
Academic and Career Goals related to this project				
Faculty Mentoring Plan (must include weekly meetings with SURI scholar).				

B. Creative Activity Rubric:

Attribute	0 = No Attempt	1 = Developing	2 = Competent	3 = Exemplary
Background				
Vision				
Design				
Potential Outcomes and Implications				
Written Communication				

Academic and Career Goals related to this project				
Faculty Mentoring Plan (must include weekly meetings with SURI scholar).				

I. Link to Apply

In order to apply, please click this link: [SURI 2026 Application](#)

PLEASE READ: The student will connect with their faculty mentor first, and then fill out the application portions, including student demographic information, project information, faculty profile information, a research/creative activities narrative including variables in the rubric (above), and academic/career goals related to the project. You may work with your faculty/student on the narrative.

The faculty mentor will then receive an email where they will complete an overall evaluation on the student's submitted materials, in addition to a mentoring plan.

Applications are due by March 5th, 2026.