



# Fayetteville State University

## Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (FSU-RISE)

### Description of program

Fayetteville State University Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (FSU-RISE) is a project federally-funded by the National Institute of Health and Human Services (NIHHS) with the overall goal to increase the number of well-prepared FSU biology and chemistry minority students entering biomedical and behavioral research. Students matriculate in FSU-RISE as sophomores, although upperclassmen may be considered on an individual basis. RISE Scholars participate in three full years of structured educational pipeline activities leading to graduate school including participation in hands-on Biotechniques or Biopsychology Workshops; Enrichment Seminars; faculty-mentored intramural and extramural research; Scientific Communications and interdisciplinary research courses; local and national research symposia and conferences; and a full Graduate Record Examination (GRE) preparatory workshop. Students who are committed to completing all aspects of the program and have a strong interest in pursuing graduate study in biology or chemistry are encouraged to apply to the FSU-RISE program.

### Terms for Acceptance into the FSU-RISE Program

For the academic year students may be accepted into the FSU-RISE program beginning August of that year. Appointments are part-time (10 hours per week; hourly requirement and pay increase with matriculation through the program). The program requires time commitments for the following activities: **Enrichment Seminars** (2 hours each Monday night from 5:30 p.m – 7:30 p.m.); **Biotechniques or GRE workshops** (Saturday mornings; 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m., dates TBA); **Study hall** (Four hours per week; times based on your schedule); **Summer Research Internship; Intramural Research**; attendance at the **Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students** (ABRCMS, dates TBA); attendance at the **Annual FSU-RISE Research Colloquium** (dates TBA); and attendance to **ALL** events on Schedule of Activities handout (which is provided during orientation). In addition, scholars are required to enroll in **BIOL 225: Scientific Communication** during the spring semester of the sophomore year which will serve as a restricted science elective.

### Eligibility

Applicants must be: full-time students; a sophomore as of Fall semester applying with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8; a declared major in biology, or chemistry; a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or permanent resident. The student must be a member of an underrepresented group in the biomedical or behavioral sciences (African American, Hispanic, Native American or Pacific Islander).

### Program Benefits

Participants will receive a monthly salary (minimum \$12 per hour with minimum of 10 hours per week) and will be able to participate in the following activities: Fall and Spring Workshops, the FSU-RISE Colloquium, a Summer Research Internship each summer, Intramural Research, Research Conferences and educational field trips.

### Application Process

The application for admission into the FSU-RISE program is available at the FSU-RISE Program office (LS 312-A) and FSU website. All required material (application, letters of recommendation (3), official transcript(s), personal statement, and state application) should be submitted per the instructions provided below and within the application deadline date. Three current letters of recommendation from persons qualified to evaluate your academic and professional qualifications are required (ex. Professor, advisor, former teacher, etc.). You should solicit recommendations from individuals who are familiar with your academic ability and can address your potential for success in academic and research settings. If you have been out of school for a number of years and are unable to contact former professors, letters from other individuals who can evaluate your academic ability and overall potential will be accepted. Recommendations should be sent by mail from the person submitting the recommendation on your

behalf, or they may return the recommendation to you (in a sealed envelope with their signature over the flap).

### **Transcripts**

Applicants must submit current **official transcript** bearing the official seal for all institutions attended. Transfer credit(s) posted on the FSU transcript from another institution(s) will not be accepted in lieu of an official transcript from that institution.

### **Personal Statement Essay:**

Write a one-page personal statement essay explaining your career plans and how participation in the FSU-RISE program will benefit you. Please address in the essay your interest in conducting research and attending graduate school to obtain a Ph.D. degree.

### **Interview:**

Applicants who meet the admission qualifications for the FSU-RISE program will be contacted for an interview with the FSU-RISE program director and others.

### **For additional information contact:**

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