FURI Application Cheat Sheet/Information Sheet – Application Due March 3rd

So you’re considering applying to FURI and want to know how to be successful? Here’s a breakdown of the application process and evaluation criteria.

FURI Eligibility Requirements
- 2nd semester student through senior
- Full-time student
- Must be an Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering undergraduate student
- Must be in good academic standing (i.e. not on probation)

- Mentors must be in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering faculty and not on sabbatical or extended vacation during the semester requested

Application Basics
- Update/create your resume
- Prepare a proposal, 2 page maximum
- Bibliography for your research references
- Create a timeline of activities for each semester

- Create a budget with estimated research supplies for each semester
- Prepare your personal statement, 1 page
- Include a copy of your academic transcript
- Review your proposal with your faculty mentor and receive his/her approval

Where are the Mentors?
- They can be in a different discipline than yours!
- Review School and faculty research websites
- FURI website under “Research Opportunities”
- Review previous FURI Abstract books
- Talk to faculty about their research

- Ask current FURI or other research students
- Visit faculty during office hours
- Request an appointment with faculty to discuss opportunities

When Describing Your Research, Discuss...
- Objective statement – states the overall objective of the research project, including a research question or hypothesis to be investigated.
- Background/literature review – describes the importance of the proposed work, previous research already conducted on this topic (including citations to prior research in this area is highly recommended), and alignment to one of the five the Fulton research themes.
- Research plan – describes the tasks that will be conducted in order to complete the research project.
- Impact of research – describes what benefits to society would result from the successful competition of this project and how the proposed project is related to at least one of the five Fulton themes.

- Who else is involved in the project? How will you define roles?
- If this is a continuation of current research, describe your progress to date
- Including human subjects: include IRB information
- Be sure your research question is not too large or too small to be completed during your requested semesters
- How your research aligns with one of the Fulton research themes
  - Education
  - Energy
  - Health
  - Security
  - Sustainability

We wish you the best of luck and hard work as you explore and apply for research opportunities. Learn more at http://more.engineering.asu.edu/furi/. Contact us at furi@asu.edu if you have questions!
Proposal Structure: 2 Examples

Example 1
- Statement of Problem
- Objectives
- Plan of Action
- Expected Outcomes
- References

Example 2
- Research Question
- Background
- Methodology
- Practical Applications
- Expected Results

Your timeline is...
- An overview of the specific steps in your research
- Provide details and be realistic
- Do not add FURI deadlines

Prepare a Budget
- Discuss with your faculty mentor possible needed supplies to conduct your research
- Search for estimates for proposed supplies
- Create a budget that includes the item, estimated cost, and justification for needing it
- Limit of $400 per semester. Estimate high to account for shipping
- Funds cannot be spread over several semesters
- Item is property of faculty after end of research term

Personal Statement: Both Personal and Professional (1 page)
- Describe your personal goals and how this research relates to your goals
- Describe your interest in participating in the research and how you got interested
- Explain how your technical skills will help the research
- This is where you can explain anything that might seem odd or confusing to the committee.

How Your Proposal Will be Evaluated...
- Evaluated by FURI faculty committee
- Each application and proposal is reviewed by two reviewers, then the entire committee reviews applications
- The process is competitive
- Funding levels vary per semester
- Approved proposals depend on number of proposals received, the quality of the proposals, and amount of available funding

Evaluation Criteria
- The research question or hypothesis to be investigated is well-thought out and described.
- There is a clearly defined research plan that describes the tasks that will be conducted in order to answer the research question.
- The timetable is descriptive and correlates to the research plan defined in the proposal.
- The proposal provides a concise review of research previously published relevant to the proposed work with appropriate citations.
- The personal statement demonstrates that the student is motivated and aligns with the proposed research activities.
- The resume demonstrates an ability to achieve goals and participation in activities.
- The overall transcript illustrates good academic standing and the student’s ability to manage the course load and research.
- The proposal explicitly states how the research aligns with at least one of the five Fulton research themes.
- The proposal support letter strongly endorses the student’s abilities and preparation for the project and demonstrates a clear commitment toward the student’s project as a mentor.

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