



BLACKBURN
INSTITUTE

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Summer Mentorship Experience
Student Information Session



The mission of the Blackburn Institute is to develop a network of diverse leaders who understand the challenges facing the state of Alabama and the nation and who are committed to serving as agents of positive change.



Program Overview

- The Blackburn Institute's Summer Mentorship Experience is an opportunity for students to work directly with a mentor from the Blackburn community to address the needs of Alabama communities through research, direct service, and/or public policy.
- Funded summer projects may be located in Alabama or Washington, DC and span 4 to 12 weeks between May and July.
- Students graduating in December 2017 or later are eligible to participate, including new students from the 2016 class.

Student Benefits

- Develop a meaningful relationship with a member of the Blackburn community
- Engage with a Blackburn mentor on work related to an issue of importance to Alabama
- Take action to improve the state through a work product developed for a community partner
- Gain practical, issue-based work and/or academic experience
- Receive support from a Blackburn advisor before, during, and after the placement
- Earn a financial award to cover reasonable living and project expenses, up to a maximum of \$5,000
- Interact and share experience with other Blackburn students

Paths to Involvement

1. Write and submit a project proposal address a topic of interest to you. Prospective mentors will be able to review these proposals and request a match, based on their areas of expertise and interest. Proposal application was posted January 27, 2017.

Proposal Deadline: February 20, 2017

2. Review proposals submitted by prospective mentors and request a match, based on your interest. Proposals are posted March 1, 2017.

Match Request Deadline: March 19, 2017

Students proposing their own projects have a greater chance of getting matched with a mentor.

Student Commitments

- Participate in a one-hour pre-project meeting with Blackburn advisor and mentor
- Communicate with Blackburn advisor at least bi-weekly
- Meet consistently (at least once a week) in-person with mentor
- Participate in summer video conferences with other students
- Participate in a one-hour post-project meeting with Blackburn advisor and mentor
- Present work product to a community partner before August 11, 2017
- Present a poster session at Annual Symposium on August 25, 2017

Eligibility

- Student
 - Anticipated graduation date of December 2017 or later
 - On campus during fall 2017
 - Completed all components of the first year curriculum
- Project
 - Is a research, direct service, and/or public policy project
 - Provides substantive work (20 hours/week) for 4 to 12 weeks
 - Will be implemented in Alabama or Washington, DC
 - Generates a work product that addresses the needs of Alabama communities by August 1
 - Includes the formal presentation of a work product to a community partner by August 11

Project Proposals

Well-written project proposals will address each of the following components:

- Issue or community need to be addressed, along with data support the need for action
- Plan of action that details the activities in which the student will be engaged
- Timeline for implementation of the project
- Itemized budget (if requesting funding for project expenses)
- Anticipated work product that will be generated

Important Deadlines

- February 20 – Deadline for submission of project proposals
- March 19 – Deadline to request matches
- March 30 – Deadline to accept/decline placements
- April 28 – Deadline for Learning Objectives Agreement
- August 1 – Deadline for completion of project
- August 11 – Deadline to present work product to community partner

Contact Information

Blackburn Institute

(205) 348-3277

blackburninstitute@sa.ua.edu

<http://blackburninstitute.sa.ua.edu>

Dr. R. Mac Griswold, Director

(205) 348-3277

mac.griswold@ua.edu

Mr. Jerran Hill, Assistant Director

(205) 348-9189

jshill4@ua.edu

Ms. Darcel Green, Program Assistant

(205) 348-3277

dmgreen@ua.edu