**Undergraduate Research Assistant (RA) Application, Fall 2016**

**Application Instructions**

Please complete this application and submit to the laboratory director, Alex Shackman, via email (shackman@umd.edu) along with an unofficial copy of your transcript.

Date:\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Major/Minor:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GPA:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Major GPA:\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ***NOTE: GPA and Major GPA must both be 3.0 or greater.***

Semesters completed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Expected graduation date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Applying For: | [ ] Research Credit | [ ] Student hourly |
| (Please choose one) | [ ] Volunteer | [ ] Work-Study |
| Number of hours per week? | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |

***NOTE:*** *Students applying for* ***work-study*** *must receive FWS (Federal Work Study) funding as part of their financial aid package. Students must work in the lab for at least 1 semester before applying for a* ***student hourly*** *position.* *Students applying for* ***research credit*** *must: work in the lab a minimum of* ***50 hours per credit*** *per semester (this is approximately 3 hours per week per credit; e.g., 3 credits = 150 hours total, or roughly 10 hours per week);* ***write an 5-8 page research paper –or- prepare a 10 min oral presentation****; and* ***attend weekly lab meetings****.*  *All new RAs must commit to at least 10 hours/week for at least 2 semesters.*

How many semesters can you commit to this position?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***NOTE: Minimum commitment is 2 semesters***

Will you be a registered student during the summer? YES [ ] NO [ ]

Will you be available to work in the lab during the summer? YES [ ]  NO [ ]

Computer Background: Please describe your computing background, including any programming language and operating systems you know, **OR** check or list the operating systems / software / programming languages that you have experience using.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [ ]  PC DOS | [ ]  PC Windows  | [ ]  Macintosh  | [ ]  Unix / Linux  |
| [ ]  MS Word | [ ]  Excel  | [ ]  MATLAB  | [ ]  SPSS / SAS / R  |
| [ ]  MS Powerpoint | [ ]  Photoshop  | [ ]  Access / SQL | [ ]  Filemaker Pro |
| [ ]  HTML / CSS | [ ]  Visual Basic  | [ ]  Google Drive / Calendar | [ ]  C / Perl / Ruby / Python / Java |
| [ ]  AFNI | [ ]  FSL | [ ]  SPM / FMRISTAT | [ ]  ANTS / DTI TK |
| [ ]  Eprime / Presentation |  |  | [ ]  Camino / TrackVis |
| Other: |

**Continued….**

Research Interests

Please describe your research interests and what drew you to the Shackman Lab.

Problem-solving and Troubleshooting

Please describe a challenge you have faced in research, volunteering, or academic settings (*e.g., understanding a difficult concept in a class or balancing multiple conflicting scheduled assignments*) and the strategies you used to overcome it.

Puzzles and Mechanicals Background

Please describe any relevant expertise or interests in either solving puzzles/games or working with mechanical/electronic hardware (e.g., *I rebuilt my motorcycle’s carburetor last summer*; *I worked as a bike mechanic in high school*)

Professional Experience

*Please list relevant work, volunteer, club, or research experiences,*

*Employer Dates of Employment Job Title / Description*

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Honors

*Please list any relevant honors, scholarships, or awards,*

Legal / Academic Issues

*Good science and good lab morale depends on trust, honesty, candor, and integrity. If you have ever been charged with a felony or academic misconduct, please provide the dates and details,*

**Continued….**

References

*Please provide at least 2 professional references, preferably prior supervisors or faculty/organizational mentors,*

*Name/Title Dates Contact Information Nature of Relationship*

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Plans

*What are your professional plans after graduation?*

Research Vision

*What kind of research or research position are you most excited about? Do you feel like you are particularly well suited to data collection vs. lab administration/coordination vs. data processing/analysis?*

*Are there any kinds of research positions (e.g., lab administration) that you definitely do not want to do?*

*Do you anticipate any chronic conflicts between your commitment to the lab and other professional (e.g., I know I have to work at the Union every night), personal (e.g., I have been raising my kid sister since my folks passed away), or academic/sports commitments (e.g., Between o-chem and mo-bio, I know this fall is gonna be a killer; Did I mention that my water polo team travels 4 days/week?) during Autumn 2013 or later? This is not necessarily a problem, but it would certainly be helpful for us to both have the appropriate expectations.*

**Continued….**

Please block out times that you know you *cannot* work. Semester & Year:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I do *not* yet know my course or other schedule for this semester:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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