

Dear Potential Undergraduate Researcher,

Thank you for your interest in becoming involved in the research in the Reed Lab in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alabama. I believe strongly that experience doing research is a critical component of young scientist's development. As undergraduate students work in my lab they are expected to contribute significantly to the intellectual content of their research projects and to ultimately earn authorship on peer-reviewed publications. This requires a significant commitment of time and enthusiasm to the lab group, the research, and to one's own intellectual development.

The expectations for students joining my lab group are:

1. Regular attendance and participation at weekly lab meetings
2. A minimum 2-year commitment to the lab
3. A minimum of 8 hours per week of research during the academic year
4. A minimum of one summer (20 hours per week for 10 weeks)
5. Maintenance of 3.0 cumulative GPA overall and a 3.5 cumulative GPA in science and math classes
6. Yearly presentations of work at research symposia or scientific meetings
7. Final written reports on all research findings including complete lab notebooks, data files, and analyses
8. Contribute equally to shared laboratory chores and responsibilities
9. Registration in 1 hour of research credit (BSC 398) per semester
10. Being willing to apply for external funding resources when recommended
11. Absolute scientific integrity

Research is not easy. It can be tedious and frustrating, but also extremely rewarding. If you feel you are prepared to make the commitments outlined above please send me an email ([lreed1@ua.edu](mailto:lreed1@ua.edu)) with the following attachments:

1. A 2 page letter /essay on why you want to be involved in the research and in my lab group specifically and what your career goals are.
2. The contact information for two references, non-family members, who know you and can speak to your ability to handle independent responsibilities.

I am looking for intellectual enthusiasm and the potential to learn quickly rather than a specific skill set or knowledge base. Preference will be given to students early in their college careers.

Application Deadlines:

**Friday, November 3rd by 5pm for Spring 2018**

**Friday, March 23, 2017 by 5pm for consideration for beginning in the Summer 2018 or Fall 2018**

If you are an incoming freshman, submit your application by August 17th, 2018 for consideration for starting research in the Fall of 2018.

I will interview some applicants and then select a small number to join my lab group. I will conduct a similar application and interview process each semester for students starting in the lab the following semester so students wait to apply until they are ready to make the above commitments and can reapply in subsequent semesters if not selected in the first round.

Thank you again for your interest and feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Laura Reed