

Summary

URI ESTEEMED is an NIH-funded program that supports students during their first two years at URI through academic enrichment, development of research skills, and fostering of a dynamic scholar community to encourage individuals from diverse backgrounds to pursue further studies and careers in bioengineering and biomedical related fields.

Timeline

The ESTEEMED program begins in the Summer before the freshmen year as part of the 5-week Talent Development (TD) Summer Success Program and the week-long URI ESTEEMED Academy, during which students will live on campus. Scholars participate in a 2-year training program during their freshman and sophomore years and corresponding summers. At the end of their sophomore year, ESTEEMED scholars are required to participate in a summer research experience at URI or another university.

Summer 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TD Summer Success Program (5 weeks) • URI ESTEEMED Academy (1 week)
Freshman Year (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework for Major • TD and ESTEEMED Advising • ESTEEMED Weekly Seminar
Freshman Year (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework + Advising • Laboratory Shadowing • ESTEEMED Weekly Seminar
Summer 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional Summer Research Experience
Sophomore Year (Fall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework + Advising • Mentored Research (8-10 hours/week) • Monthly ESTEEMED Seminar
Sophomore Year (Spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Entering Research</i> course (3 credits) • Mentored Research (8-10 hours/week) • Present at ESTEEMED Research Symposium
Summer 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required Summer Research Experience

Benefits

ESTEEMED scholars will receive the following benefits:

- Personalized advising with ESTEEMED faculty and staff,
- **\$10,000** during freshman year and **\$12,000** during sophomore year,
- Up to **\$2,000** for participation in URI ESTEEMED Academy;
- Access to a PC laptop (if needed);
- **\$4,000** for summer research experience (Year 2), and
- Travel funds of **\$500/year** to attend conferences or summer research experiences.

Requirements

URI ESTEEMED is a highly selective program for talented students with an interest in biology, biotechnology, biomedical science, and bioengineering. ESTEEMED scholars must meet the following requirements:

1. Demonstrate interest in pursuing a career in biomedical- or bioengineering-related field,
2. Major in a qualifying STEM discipline,
3. Have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher, or are in the top 15% of their class,
4. Are a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident, and
5. Identify as being from an underrepresented group or from a disadvantaged background.

To maintain their enrollment within the program, students are required to:

1. Remain in good standing as a full-time student at URI (12 credits/semester),
2. Maintain a 3.0 GPA,
3. Participate in required program activities, and
4. Demonstrate continued progress towards their degree.

Integration with other URI programs

The URI ESTEEMED program will integrate with several other programs at URI:

1. Talent Development: ESTEEMED scholars will participate in the TD Summer Success Program before their freshman year and are expected to satisfy requirements for both programs throughout the academic year.
2. MARC U*STAR: MARC U*STAR is a sister program to ESTEEMED that prepares students in their final two years at URI to enter graduate research programs. ESTEEMED scholars will have the opportunity to apply to this program upon successful matriculation from ESTEEMED.
3. RI-INBRE: RI-INBRE is an NIH-funded center for biomedical research at URI. This program provides support to ESTEEMED scholars through the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) for their summer research experience.