

## AGEP 2009-2010 Graduate Training Program Announcement and Application Directions

The Rice-Houston Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate at the University of Houston (UH-AGEP) is pleased to announce its 2009-2010 Graduate Training Program. UH-AGEP is committed to increasing the number of underrepresented minorities entering graduate school and the professoriate in science, engineering, and technology.

This program will provide professional development opportunities and funding for current UH Main campus graduate students science, engineering, and technology fields. Accepted students will be active graduate members in accordance with UH-AGEP Participant Definitions and Benefits.

Applications are to be made online at <http://www.agep.uh.edu/forms.htm>

NOTE: Please use the instructions included here rather than the instructions on the website. Failure to follow these instructions could possible jeopardize your application. Application deadline is **open**. However, as we will process applications in batches, please try to have your application in by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each semester (September 4, 2009, and January 22, 2010).

### **Eligibility**

- 1) You must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- 2) You must currently be enrolled as a graduate student in a STEM field at UH Main Campus.
- 3) Priority will be given to current/immediately past AGEP students. However, all students are encouraged to apply.

### **Program Requirements**

- 1) Participants are expected to attend all mandatory meetings. Meetings are rare during the academic year but may include special speakers and workshops.
- 2) Participants are expected to meet with the program director for a mentoring session once a semester.
- 3) Participants are expected to help out with program promotion as needed. This may involve participation in a panel discussion, meeting with undergraduate students, or visiting schools.
- 4) Participants are expected to make active progress towards their degrees which includes make full active effort to pass classes and qualifying exams and define and complete a research project.
- 5) Participants are expected to present their research in national settings and to pursue professional development opportunities.

## Application Instructions

Starting your application:

- 1) Go to <http://www.agep.uh.edu/forms.htm>
- 2) If you have previously applied to any UH-AGEP program (regardless of whether you were selected or attended), select Continuing Application
- 3) Otherwise select New Application
- 4) If you need to update or change your application, please use the Update Your Application link. **Do not use the Continuing Application link.** To update your application, you will need your reference number which should be automatically emailed to you when you submit your application. Do not submit a new application.

Year and Semester:

- 1) Year: 2009
- 2) Semester: Fall
- 3) Program Type: Graduate Program

Personal Information:

- 1) Names: For First Name and Last Name, please use the names registered with UH. For an alternative name, please let us know if you have a nickname (such as Jon or JP instead of Jonathan Paul or Marisa instead of Maria Isabel) that you prefer to use.
- 2) SSN and Birth Date are used only for tracking purposes and will not be posted anywhere.
- 3) Citizenship: This program is only available to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents.
- 4) Although submitting your Race, Ethnicity, and Gender is optional, because the AGEP program is geared towards students who are underrepresented in science and engineering, our funding requires that we ask for this information and report it to them.
- 5) Please make sure that the email you enter is updated and correct. Any automatically generated messages regarding your application will be sent to this address.

Institutional Information:

- 1) If you have already identified a research group, please enter your advisor's name and the title of your project. If not, please put the areas of research you are interested in.
- 2) You do not need to include your UH transcript as we can access that information online.

Past Institutional Information:

- 1) Please include all higher education institutions that you have taken classes at since high school.
- 2) Scanned copies of official transcripts from other schools are preferred. But you may use an unofficial copy or a grade printout. Please make sure it is in PDF or TIF format or DOC. If you are unable to upload a copy, please email a copy to [agep@nsm.uh.edu](mailto:agep@nsm.uh.edu) or drop a copy off at Rm 117 Science and Engineering Annex (Bldg 523).

Current and Permanent Address:

- 1) Please make sure we are able to reach you.
- 2) Housing is **not** available for graduate students.

#### Reference Information:

- 1) For your reference, please choose someone who knows you well and can assess your research ability well; preferably your current research advisor.
- 2) An automatic email will be sent to your reference when you submit the application. When s/he submits the reference, you will be notified automatically.
- 3) If you need to change your reference or nudge your reference after you submit your application, you can do so from the **Update Your Application** page.
- 4) It is **your** responsibility to contact your advisor and ask him/her to include the following in the letter. Failure to address these topics may jeopardize your application.
  - a. Your name
  - b. How long they have known you and in what context
  - c. An assessment of your ability to conduct research
  - d. An assessment of your passion to conduct research
  - e. Any triumphs or obstacles they know you have encountered in your education
  - f. How you can contribute to the AGEP's goal of mentoring and increasing the number of underrepresented minorities in science and engineering graduate schools and faculties
  - g. If they are your current advisor/PI, they should also verify that you have permission to supervise directly an undergraduate participant over the summer.

#### Upload files:

- 1) Please submit all documents in either .pdf or .doc format. Do **not** use .docx
- 2) Please submit a CV and **not** a resume.
- 3) If you have **not** previously participated in a UH-AGEP program please use the following topics:
  - a. For Essay 1, please talk about your research plans in 500-800 words. What is the scope of your project? What is its significance? What do you expect them to learn? Why are you interested in it?
  - b. For Essay 2, please tell us about your future career plans in 300-500 words. Where do you see yourself 5, 10, and 15 years in the future? What will you be doing?
  - c. For Essay 3/personal statement in 300-500 words: In view of AGEP's goal to increase the number of underrepresented minority faculty in science and engineering and to create an environment where they can succeed, why should AGEP pick you for this program?
  - d.
- 4) If you have previously participated in a UH-AGEP program please use the following topics:
  - a. For Essay 1, please talk about your research plans in 500-800 words. What is the scope of your project? What is its significance? What do you expect them to learn? Why are you interested in it?
  - b. For Essay 2/personal statement in 500-800 words: What have you learned through AGEP in the past years? How does AGEP play a role in your future career plans? How can AGEP help others either directly or indirectly?
  - c. There is no Essay 3, for your application.

- 5) Although the CV, Statement, and Essay are required for this application, you may submit the application first and then add these documents from the Update Your Application page.

Submission:

- 1) Please only press the submit button **once**. If you need to update your application, please use the Update Your Application page. **Do not submit a new application or a continuing application to update your application.**
- 2) After your application is submitted, you will receive a confirmation email that will include your reference number. The information in this email will give you directions on how to update your application.
- 3) If you have any questions please email [agep@nsm.uh.edu](mailto:agep@nsm.uh.edu) or call 713-743-3242.