## **BILL OF TRAISE** Guide to the URE Short Answers & Personal Statement

Questions on the application	Reflective questions to consider when crafting your response
Short Answer 1: We understand that students have a variety of commitments and engage in various activities outside of the classroom. Please discuss your typical involvement in extracurricular activities, family responsibilities, work, and/or community service.	<ul> <li>Are you a full-time or part-time student? Are you a full-time or part-time employee? Are you active on campus? Do you volunteer? Are you a caregiver for others?</li> <li>Have any of these experiences helped you develop / further your curiosity in your major field of study?</li> <li>Have any of these experiences presented challenges to you? If so, how have you managed the challenge?</li> </ul>
Short Answer 2: What are your expectations of your faculty mentor, your lab mates, and the URE research community during the 8 weeks of the Undergraduate Research Experience? How do you expect to contribute to the lab, team, and URE community?	<ul> <li>What is your understanding of research within your field of study? What kind of community do you hope to form during the eight weeks of URE?</li> <li>What do you hope to learn from this experience? What do you hope to learn from your mentor? What do you anticipate learning from your peers? What do you see as your potential contributions to your lab? Your peers?</li> <li>Do you have any experience in the field / know any techniques that you think you can apply to a research program? Are there any techniques or methods that you're hoping to learn?</li> </ul>
<b>Personal Statement:</b> In 500 words or less, your personal statement should describe why you want to participate in the Undergraduate Research Experience, and answer each one of these questions:	<ul> <li>a) What are short-term goals (within the next 12 months)? What do you hope to accomplish this semester? This year? Beyond this year? How do your short-term goals help you accomplish your long-term goals? Are these related, or completely different?</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>a) Your short-term and long-term goals.</li> <li>b) How your personal background and experiences have motivated you to pursue these goals.</li> <li>c) The steps you have taken toward achieving your goals. Feel free to include any volunteer activities, class projects, or other experiences that have prepared you for the Undergraduate Research Experience.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>b) Why do you have these goals &amp; what is the bigger purpose behind them? Why did you decide on this bigger purpose? Does it have anything to do with your background or experiences? How is your background or experience related to your goals?</li> <li>c) What motivated you to apply for the Undergraduate Research Experience? What do you think you will gain from participating in summer research? Can you draw a connection between your goals and your motivation to participate in a summer research program?</li> </ul>
d) How URE will help you achieve your goals.	d) How will a summer research program help you make progress toward achieving your goals? If it will not help you advance toward achieving your goals, what will you gain by participating in a summer research experience?