THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
CHATTANOOGA
Undergraduate Research and
Creative Endeavor

Background
The Interest Statement will help prospective faculty mentors learn more about who you are, why you are interested in undergraduate research, and your life experiences. Keep in mind that this document will be one of the first ways that you will "introduce yourself" to a prospective mentor; therefore, you should take sufficient time to write it. Before you submit this document with your application it is recommended that you:

1) Have others review the draft and provide feedback.
2) Review the draft for typographical errors (misspelled words, capitalization issues, etc.)
3) Perform a spell check. Click on this LINK to learn how to do this in Microsoft Word.

URWSP Interest Statement Formatting Instructions
⇒ Compose the statement in Microsoft Word.
⇒ The statement should be double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font.
⇒ Set all margins to one inch.
⇒ The statement should be at least 1000 minimum.

What to Include in the Interest Statement
Your statement should **persuade** the reader that you are an ideal candidate for the URWS program.
A convincing statement clearly articulates WHY you are the best fit for the program, and WHAT you can contribute. The statement should be thorough, well-constructed (i.e., organized), and formatted correctly. Keep in mind that this document represents YOU. The statement is a critical component of your application, and will help prospective mentors determine your fit for a research position and the program.

Include responses to all 7 items listed below in your statement.

1) Background Information: Include your major, academic interests, extra/co-curricular activities, involvement in clubs and organizations, and any other non-academic information or accomplishments you wish to share.
2) Why do you want to participate in the URWS program?
3) How do you see your participation in this program "fitting in" with current and future academic and professional goals?
4) What can you contribute to this program?
5) What skills do you hope to gain by participating in this experience?
6) What is your unique skill set? Describe your skills relevant to this experience. For example, you may address your time-management, communication, or organizational skills. Please also provide specific examples for each skills you address.
7) How do you plan to manage your time and balance the research with other aspects of the program.