

Applying for the Center for Sustainable Polymers Undergraduate Summer Research Program

Application Process

Required

- Transcript
- 1 letter of recommendation
- CV or resume
- 500 word statement of purpose

Letter of Recommendation

One letter of recommendation is required for the CSP program. Give your letter writer information on CSP summer research program and let them know how it fits into your educational goals. Give them a copy of your resume/CV and, if time permits, give them a copy of your personal statement.

Preferred Sources (must be a faculty member):

- Research supervisors
- Academic advisors
- Chemistry/Engineering/Science/Math professors

Do **not** submit letters from:

- High school teachers
- People who can't comment on your ability as a scientist/ engineer
- People who don't know you well

Statement of Purpose

Follow CSP guidelines:

- 500 word (maximum statement)
- Describe why you wish to participate in this program
- Describe any previous research experience
- Describe your career goals

General Suggestions:

- Statement of purpose is very different from college application essays
- Be clear and concise
- Use professional language and avoid clichés
- Don't just list things that are stated on your resume

- If possible, have a professor or graduate student take a look at it
- For more suggestions, see our guide to writing a good statement of purpose:
 - <http://z.umn.edu/cspwritingtips>

Useful Links + Resources

Tips for Writing Statements of Purpose

- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/02>
- http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2006_01_06/nodoi.15679808495969386309
- <https://acsundergrad.wordpress.com/tag/ph-d-application-process/>
- <https://depts.washington.edu/engl/advising/gradschool/SoP2.php>

Sample Statements of Purpose

- <https://admissionsource.wordpress.com/2007/07/26/successful-essays/>

Letters of Recommendation

- <http://undergraduate.research.gwu.edu/asking-letters-recommendation>

Preparing a CV or Resume

- https://cse.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Undergraduate_Resume_Writing_Guide.pdf
- https://cse.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Graduate-Resume_-_CV_Guide1.pdf