Summer Research Opportunities Program
Program Evaluation Report
May 2018

Prepared by:
Charity Farber, Associate Director
Big Ten Academic Alliance

Coordinated by:
Joseph Miller, former Project Coordinator
Big Ten Academic Alliance

Review Committee:
Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, Graduate College Dean
University of Illinois

William Karpus, Graduate School Dean
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Judith Stoddart, Graduate School Associate Dean
Michigan State University

Jean Vasilatos-Younken, Vice Provost for Graduate Education & Graduate School Dean
Pennsylvania State University

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

The Big Ten Academic Alliance Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) is an undergraduate summer research program designed to increase educational access for students that are underrepresented in graduate education. The Big Ten Academic Alliance completes program evaluations on a rotating schedule. This report is a summary of a program evaluation on SROP conducted in 2017.

The purpose and scope of this evaluation is multifold:
1. to assess the functions and features of the SROP Shared Application;
2. to survey the Graduate Deans' priorities and goals for their summer research opportunities programs; and
3. to gain information regarding campus-level efforts to track SROP participants' graduate school outcomes.

The SROP program review is a process of refinement and an opportunity to reflect on what is working well and what improvement could be made based on feedback from the Graduate Deans and SROP Coordinators. The evaluation process revealed a high level of agreement on the overall goal of SROP as a strategy for recruiting graduate prospects to enroll in graduate study at the host university. There were several key areas identified for improving program outcomes and strengthening program impact:

❒ **Maintain a locally-administered support structure for program with consortial-administered support for the Shared Application.** Local SROP programs are diverse in their organizational and administrative practices, reflecting the local cultures and priorities of the participating universities.

❒ **Invest in a new Shared Application web application.** In its current state, the antiquated web application is resource-intensive due to its complexity and use of outdated program design.

❒ **Refine the SROP Shared Application.** SROP Coordinators should work among themselves and with the Big Ten Academic Alliance to identify the necessary features for ease of use and ability to accommodate institutional needs.

❒ **Enhance data collection to showcase program success.** Graduate Deans should identify data metrics that will signify success of the program goals. If a consortial-wide effort is desired, the Graduate Deans need to ensure SROP Coordinators have resources to collect the information and enforce data reporting to the Big Ten Academic Alliance.

Program Overview

History of SROP

In 1986, SROP was launched by the Big Ten Academic Alliance Graduate Deans as an early intervention program to identify talented underrepresented minority (URM) students, encourage and foster each student's academic development, and heighten the students' awareness of graduate education as a viable option following completion of their undergraduate studies.

Today, SROP is a national model for serving as a gateway to graduate education. SROP has provided over 16,000 research experiences to underrepresented students nationwide. To date, the program has confirmed 610 program alumni who have completed the Ph.D. degree, and has successfully tracked more than 3,000 alumni who have pursued graduate study. Thousands of others have completed graduate training and are pursuing successful careers in government, business, and non-profit agencies.

At the onset of the program, SROP was centrally-administered at the Big Ten Academic Alliance. As the program grew in size and complexity, the program became locally-administered, which also allowed the program to be tailored to accommodate institutional differences. The Big Ten Academic Alliance provides general administrative support and manages the Shared Application. During this evaluation, thirteen Big Ten Academic Alliance campuses[1] participated in SROP.

Program Goals

The primary goal of SROP is to increase the number of underrepresented students who enroll in graduate programs at Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions. While each program seeks to recruit their own SROP students, recruiting students to universities across the Big Ten Academic Alliance consortium is also a key goal. Increasing the number of underrepresented students who attain a graduate education, regardless of where they enroll, is a secondary goal.

In 2012, the goals expanded to include increasing the number of underrepresented undergraduate students from Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions who participate in SROP.

Program Structure and Content

SROP is an intensive 8 to 10-week summer research experience designed to prepare undergraduate students for and encourage them to pursue graduate study and academic careers. The program is composed of two complementary components: research internships with faculty mentors and campus-based educational enrichment activities, including professional development workshops and GRE preparation.

Each Big Ten Academic Alliance institution establishes its own recruitment and selection process for identifying SROP scholars to participate in their program each year. Applications are vetted at the campus level by SROP Coordinators and faculty. Offers are made to applicants on a rolling basis with an agreed upon binding decision date of March 15. While SROP targets rising juniors and seniors majoring in all fields of study, anyone who has completed two semester of undergraduate education may participate.

Universities support their SROP programs through a variety funding sources, including departmental matching funds, grant funds, and/or university (central) funds. All programs are administered by the graduate school unit, but in some cases, the graduate school partners with departmentally-based programs or other central units on

---

[1] University of Illinois, University of Iowa, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, Rutgers University-New Brunswick, University of Wisconsin-Madison

campus. All programs provide a common set of benefits including a stipend and full-time research experience, professional development, and enrichment activities.

The Graduate Dean appoints an institutional Coordinator(s) to serve as the central administrator for the program and serve as the campus contact with the Big Ten Academic Alliance office. SROP Coordinators usually hold positions in the Graduate Schools' Diversity and Inclusion/Equity Office with responsibilities in areas such as recruitment, mentor programming, and retention but also in a range of other academic administrative roles. They are responsible for supervising all aspects of the SROP scholars' activities at the local campus. SROP Coordinators play an important role in the recruitment and selection of SROP scholars and are essential in the program planning and implementation of the summer research internship, as well as the campus-based enrichment programs that support the SROP experience.

Big Ten Academic Alliance headquarters staff support local programs by providing overall planning and coordination of collaborative aspects of the program. These include
- facilitating communication and best practice sharing among SROP staff;
- managing the SROP Shared Application process; and
- maintaining and reporting longitudinal program data.

Shared Application
The Big Ten Academic Alliance SROP Shared Application (formerly known as the Common Application) is a web-based application system with a review portal available to campus-approved faculty and staff users, including potential faculty mentors. In the late 1990s, the Big Ten Academic Alliance sourced a custom-built web application, which was collaboratively designed in consultation with SROP Coordinators. The application questions and content have been updated periodically since its creation, and the last significant web application update was completed in 2012.

Access to the Shared Application review portal is managed by Big Ten Academic Alliance staff in conversation with SROP Coordinators. The Shared Application review portal is searchable by many variables, including the applicant's home undergraduate institution, race/ethnicity, and institutions selected. Once an applicant has been vetted and accepted, SROP Coordinators make offers to applicants outside of the Share Application web tool. Offer and acceptance information can be logged in the application review portal; however, it is for information purposes only. Therefore, the offer and acceptance information is mostly maintained at the campus-level.

The common application system enables local programs to develop a rich, national applicant pool, and is intended to minimize duplication of effort by eliminating the need to maintain a separate application systems at each SROP host site. Working together under the Big Ten Academic Alliance umbrella, local SROP programs have a stable, national presence among external stakeholders, including McNair programs and minority-serving institutions.

Benefits of the Shared Application cited by external constituents include having a single location where applicants can apply to one or all Big Ten Academic Alliance SROP institutions who use the shared application. In addition, the decreased cost for applicants since only one transcript is required and reduced burden for applicants and faculty who only need to provide one set of application materials and/or recommendations was highlighted.

Campuses are relieved from providing the application's technical support, transcript collection and processing, and answering questions from applicants regarding the application process. Further, each year's applicant pool

provides Big Ten Academic Alliances institutions with an extensive list of prospective graduate students that can be used for recruitment and outreach purposes.

While having a Shared Application provides many tangible benefits, the technical aspects of the current SROP web application system is complex and has an outdated program design, causing content editing to be onerous and often times impossible. For example, a document upload function is standard in contemporary application design, and it cannot be integrated into the current SROP web application platform. The lack of a transcript upload option requires the Big Ten Academic Alliance staff to manually upload each transcript (approximately 1,700 transcripts each year) to the application review portal. Most importantly, the application review portal for SROP Coordinators and campus-approved users is difficult to navigate and does not generate consistent or reliable results.

Longitudinal Data Collection
The Big Ten Academic Alliance has a long history of collecting SROP participant information. The original Big Ten Academic Alliance SROP longitudinal database was not adequate for tracking graduate enrollment data. In response to the need for tracking outcomes, the Big Ten Academic Alliance implemented a new database in 2010. Graduate yields and trends for cohorts prior to 2006 are less reliable, and therefore, the new database started with alumni participants from the 2006 cohort. This database was designed to better manage and track graduate applications, admissions, and enrollments.

To collect alumni outcomes, the Big Ten Academic Alliance staff implemented an annual reporting processes to solicit tracking updates from SROP Coordinators, and instituted direct communications with recent alumni to track their graduate plans and promote graduate opportunities across the Big Ten Academic Alliance.

Until 2012, the Big Ten Academic Alliance coordinated an annual SROP Conference, which convened students from all participating programs. The Big Ten Academic Alliance managed the registration for the conference, and the registration data was used to populate the SROP longitudinal database. When the conference was discontinued, the Big Ten Academic Alliance staff attempted to collect the participant data through a web form via the SROP Coordinators. The number of completed entries decreased significantly, and the Big Ten Academic Alliance was unable to collect participant data from several institutions.

In 2015, the Big Ten Academic Alliance attempted a different approach to gather SROP participation data by soliciting information from SROP Coordinators instead participants. Although specific data points were requested, the data received were inconsistent, and several institutions did not submit data. Due to these challenges, it was decided to discontinue tracking SROP participation at the consortial-level.

Although participant data is missing for summer cohorts 2012-2017, alumni tracking is still possible for previous years. Without a unique identifier such as a social security number or orchid number, it is very difficult to track the academic career path of an SROP alumnus. Most of the tracking is done by doing a web search for the alumni. This is labor intensive to do for an alumni list greater than 16,000 individuals.

Evaluation Methodology

The overarching Big Ten Academic Alliance evaluation process for SROP began in fall 2017. The previous program evaluation was completed in 2009. Joseph Miller, former Big Ten Academic Alliance Project Coordinator, coordinated the 2017 program review in consultation with an evaluation team. The review committee included Graduate Deans and Associate Deans: Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, University of Illinois; William Karpus, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Judith Stoddart, Michigan State University; and Jean Vasilatos-Younken, Pennsylvania State University. The key program constituents include the Big Ten Academic Alliance Graduate Deans, SROP Coordinators, SROP applicants, and SROP alumni. Various methods and data collection were used to gather feedback for the evaluation.

In fall 2017, the Big Ten Academic Alliance Graduate Deans were surveyed. The Graduate Deans were asked the following questions:

1. Does your Graduate College/School support Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) during the summer?
2. Does your Graduate College support other programs focused on recruiting underrepresented minorities?
3. Rank priorities/goals for your Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP).
4. Do you track outcomes of your SROP to see how well it meets your priorities/goals above?
5. How would you rank the priority of investing in your Summer Research Opportunities Program over other program?

In addition to the Graduate Deans, the SROP Coordinators were surveyed. They were asked the following questions:

Shared Application
1. Does your institution participate in the Big Ten Academic Alliance Shared SROP Application?
2. The Big Ten Academic Alliance Shared SROP Application is effective in recruiting, vetting, and offering positions to SROP applicants.
3. Are there improvements that could make the Shared Application more effective for recruiting, vetting, and offering positions to SROP applicants?
4. Over the last three years, on average, what is the size of your SROP cohort each summer?
5. Over the last three years, on average, what percentage of offers made to Shared Application applicants are accepted?
6. Over the last three years, what is your institution's annual average number of offers to applicants from the Big Ten Academic Alliance Shared SROP Application?
7. Does your campus have a separate, direct application for SROP?
8. Over the last three years, on average, what is your institution's annual number of offers made to applicants from your direct application process (i.e., not via the Shared Application)?
9. Over the last three years, on average, what percentage of offers made to direct applicants are accepted?

SROP Participant Tracking
1. Does your institution track SROP alumni careers after participation in your summer research experience?
2. If yes, what do you track?
3. If yes, how do you track?
4. If you track SROP data, for what time period do you have such data?
5. How many SROP students were supported on your campus from Summer 2012 to Summer 2014?

6. How many SROP students who previously participated in your SROP program enrolled in graduate degree program at your institution over the last three academic years (2014/15-2016/17)?
7. How many SROP students who previously participated in an SROP program from other Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions enrolled in a graduate degree program at your institution over the last three academic years (2014/15-2016/17)?
8. In your opinion, are the current evaluation mechanisms that your institution uses adequate to measure the value of your SROP?

Another component of the program evaluation included reviewing and analyzing SROP application data for a seven-year period between summers 2011 to 2017. Over this time period, 8,070 applicants applied to the SROP program. In this evaluation, a variety of factors were examined including applicant demographics, average GPA of applicants, number of applicants by Big Ten Academic Alliance institution, number of home undergraduate institutions, and most common undergraduate majors.

Data Analysis and Summaries

Graduate Dean Perspective
As a part of this evaluation, the Big Ten Academic Alliance Graduate Deans were asked to complete a survey to help assess the priorities and goals of the campus-based SROP programs. The survey questions are found in Appendix A.

The survey results indicate that SROP is a top priority amongst programs aimed at increasing URM students for all campuses except one, which stated that their SROP program is equally prioritized with other URM recruitment programs.

As shown in Table 1, the Graduate Deans confirm the primary goal of SROP is to increase the number of underrepresented students who enroll in graduate programs. However, the results indicate that there is a higher priority to enroll SROP alumni into their own graduate programs rather than at other Big Ten Academic Alliance universities. The Deans also note the importance of SROP meeting their overall education mission.
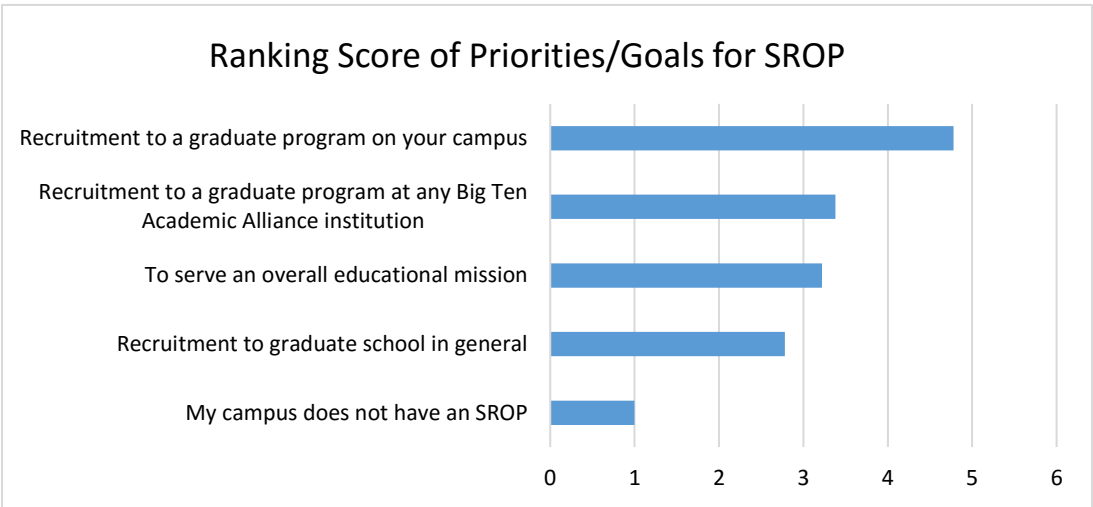
Table 1: Graduate Deans Priorities/Goals for SROP

All respondents noted that their campuses track SROP outcomes to determine if the program is meeting the goals and priorities listed in Table 1. The outcomes tracked by campuses include but are not limited to applications, admissions, matriculations, graduation rates, fellowships awarded, and time-to-degree data.

In addition to SROP, all campuses invest in other programs focused on recruiting URM students:
- AEA Summer Program in Economics
- ASPIRE – Fall Early Application and Campus Visit Program at Illinois
- "Bridge to Ph.D." Programs
- Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)
- McNair Scholars Program
- Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholars Program (MICHHERS)
- Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANNRS)
- Preview weekends
- Professorial Advancement Initiative (PAI)
- WiscAMP Bridge to the Doctorate

SROP Coordinator Perspective

The SROP Coordinators were asked to complete a survey to assess the utility of the SROP Shared Application and suggest improvements. Eleven of the 13 SROP campuses participated in the survey, including nine that participated in the Shared Application. The survey questions are found in Appendix B. The following is a summary of the responses regarding the Shared Application.

The majority of SROP Coordinator respondents either strongly agree or somewhat agree that the Shared Application is effective for recruiting, vetting, and offering positions to SROP applicants. One respondent strongly disagreed and two other respondents were neutral. One respondent noted that their campus does not participate in the SROP Shared Application because their faculty and staff perceive a lack of commitment to their university from these applicants compared to those who apply directly to their campus.

The SROP Coordinators provided insights on how the web application and review portal could be enhanced:

- Ability to do a keyword search within personal and research statements
- Ability to make offers to students within the application review system
- Add additional student demographic questions (e.g., first generation student)
- Allow campus-specific supplemental application questions (e.g., identify potential faculty mentor)
- Allow student to enter faculty reference list
- Automate the faculty recommendation process, including automated email reminders
- Enhance the search and sorting features in the review portal based on race/ethnicity, GPA, or major
- Include a question where the applicant can explain why he/she is interested in the chosen institution(s)
- Provide upload capabilities for transcript and letters of recommendation
- Upgrade the outdated web application system for ease of use

The survey requested quantitative data on application offers and acceptances. Eight out of the 11 respondents[2] use the Shared SROP Application. The survey indicates a) the Shared Application provides a varied number of each campus's total annual SROP cohort and, b) Direct Application offers are accepted at a higher rate than those made via the Shared Application (see Table 2).

Institution	SROP Cohort Size	Ave. # of offers made per year to Shared Application applicants	Ave. % of accepted offers to Shared Application applicants	Ave. # of offers made per year to Direct Application applicants	Ave. % of accepted offers to Direct Application applicants
UIUC	60+	15-20	35%	10-15	70%
IOWA	25	10	60%	15	80%
UMD	18	12	90%	12	90%
UM	30-48	N/A	N/A	20	N/A
MSU	63	100	60%	30	70%
UNL	100	N/A	N/A	120	98%
NU	40	75	50%	N/A	N/A
PSU	35-40	N/A	N/A	24	95%
PU	35	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
RU	50	10	38%	78	58%
UW-Mad	120	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

---

[2] University of Illinois, University of Iowa, University of Maryland, Michigan State University, Northwestern University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, and Rutgers University-New Brunswick

The SROP Coordinators were also surveyed about SROP alumni tracking processes and program outcomes. The following is a summary of the responses.

All 11 respondents noted that their campus tracks SROP participants. The information that is tracked, however, varies widely across institutions. There is some overlap, including:

- Applications to, enrollment in, and graduation from graduate school generally and home institution specifically
- GRE completion
- Current mailing and email address
- Publications and presentations
- Fellowships and scholarships
- Degree completion
- Career outcomes

Tracking methods range from:

- Google searches and social media (e.g., Facebook, LinkedIn)
- Surveys
- Slate – to tracker Banner registration and graduation
- Voluntary emails from SROP alumni

The survey asked for quantitative SROP participant tracking data. Nine of the 11 campuses provided such data, which are summarized below:

Institution	# of SROP participants in campus program	# of SROP alumni who matriculated in grad program at SROP host campus	# of SROP alumni who matriculated in grad program at any BTAA campus	In respondent's opinion, is tracking mechanism adequate to determine ROI of SROP?
UIUC	150	20	unknown	Yes
IOWA	90	6	unknown	No
UMD	50	5	unknown	No
UM	141	Not available	unknown	No
MSU	168	45	unknown	Yes
UNL	300	unknown	unknown	No
NU	120	14	5	Yes
PU	83	10	unknown	No
RU	157	5	unknown	No
UW	399	41	56	Yes

Table 3: Data is over three AY years: 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17

Shared Application Data Analysis

Applicant data for the seven-year period from AY 2010-11 through AY 2016-17 was reviewed and analyzed looking at a variety of factors including demographics of the applicants, number of home undergraduate

institutions, average GPA of applicants, Pell Grant status, and most common top undergraduate majors. A detailed summary of the applicant data for the seven-year period can be found in Appendix C.

The SROP has grown steadily over the last seven years. The table below shows the growth in the total number of applicants and applications per year, as well as the increase in the number of undergraduate universities.

AY	# of Applicants	# of Applicants from BTAA Institutions	# of Applications	# of UG institutions	Avg GPA	# of Pell grant recipients	# of SROP Programs[3]
2010-11	805	129	4363	271	3.61	479	9
2011-12	775	98	3036	288	3.56	422	6
2012-13	915	146	4867	288	3.55	514	7
2013-14	839	N/A	4868	271	3.55	484	8
2014-15	1714	212	9935	434	3.54	875	10
2015-16	1531	190	9072	415	3.55	778	10
2016-17	1491	178	9387	402	3.58	728	10

Table 4 Data is for a seven-year period: 2010-11 to 2016-17

In the seven-year period, there has been a significant increase in a number of applicant variables. The number of applicants increased by 686, representing an increase of 85%, and the number of applications across the Big Ten Academic Alliance increased by 115%. At the same time, the number of undergraduate institutions represented and number of applications from Pell Grant recipients doubled. There has been a slight increase in the number of applicants from Big Ten Academic Alliance undergraduate institutions; however, the rate at which non-Big Ten Academic Alliance applicants is approximately 56% more than applicants from Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions.

The highest number of applicants and applications was experienced in AY 2014-15. The number of applicants increased by 104% between AY 2013-14 and AY 2014-15. The same year, the number of applicants from Pell Grant recipients increased by 81%. Upon review of the application data, one can consider a correlation between the increase in applications with the addition of the University of Maryland and Northwestern University joining the Shared Application in 2014-15 and the increased number of applications from Pell Grant recipients.

For five of the seven years, the highest percentage of applicants identified their race as Latino, with the second highest percentage identifying as African American. In two of the seven years, the highest percentage of applicants identified as African American. In one of those two years (AY 2010-11), the second highest percentage of applicants identified their race as white. In the other year that the highest percentage of applicants identified as African American (AY 2014-15), the second highest percentage of applicants identified as Latino. On average, over the seven-year period from AY 2010-11 through AY 2016-17, the number of applicants from women (64%) has been significantly higher than men (36%).

The top two undergraduate majors of the applicants were consistently either biological sciences (ranking highest for 4 out of 7 years) or psychology (ranking highest 3 out of 7 years). Over this 7-year period, the third most common undergraduate majors were typically either social sciences or engineering. The GPA for the applicants has had minimal change over the seven-year period.

---

[3] In AY 2010-11, the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) and Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) participated in the SROP Shared Application. Starting in 2011-12, participation in SROP was limited to the Big Ten Academic Alliance members.

Summary

All evaluation data indicate that SROP and the Shared Application is a valuable collaborative effort. The goals of the program remain the same. The structure of the program is appropriate. Valuable insight has been gained on how to enhance the Shared Application; specifically, focusing on updating the web application software system. The Graduate Dean survey indicates that SROP is a top priority, and there is a need to improve SROP alumni longitudinal data collection and tracking of outcomes. The SROP Coordinator survey confirms there are campus-level efforts to track SROP participants. While all campuses track participant data to some degree, most Coordinators expressed that these mechanisms are inadequate.

Recommendations

This evaluation resulted in the following recommendations to enhance the quality of the program:

❐ The program should continue with the current support structure.

❐ The Graduate Deans should invest in upgrading the SROP Shared Application software system.

❐ With guidance from the Graduate Deans, Big Ten Academic Alliance Staff need to work with the SROP Coordinators to identify additional features that need to be included in the new SROP Application software system.

❐ In order to pursue cortial-level participant tracking, a sub-committee of Graduate Deans and Big Ten Academic Alliance staff need to develop standardized data metrics and establish a consortial-wide reporting process for sharing these metrics with the Big Ten Academic Alliance.

1. Your name

[   ]

2. Your institution

[   ]

3. Does your Graduate College/School support a Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) during the summer?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

4. Does your Graduate College support other programs focused on recruiting underrepresented minorities?

◯ Yes   ◯ No

◯ If yes, please provide the name/foci of other recruitment programs.

[   ]

5. Please rank the priorities/goals for your Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP)?

⠿	[⬍]	Recruitment to a graduate program on your campus
⠿	[⬍]	Recruitment to a graduate program at any Big Ten Academic Alliance institution
⠿	[⬍]	Recruitment to graduate school in general
⠿	[⬍]	To serve an overall educational mission
⠿	[⬍]	My campus does not have an SROP

6. If not listed above, does your campus have other priorities/goals for SROP?

◯ No   ◯ Yes

◯ If yes, please list the other priorities/goals for SROP

[   ]

1

7. Do you track outcomes of your SROP to see how well it meets your priorities/goals above?

○ Yes, annually

○ No

○ Yes, intermittently

○ If yes, which outcomes do you track?

[text box]

8. How would you rank the priority of investing in your Summer Research Opportunity Program over other programs?

○ SROP is a top priority

○ SROP is not an investment priority

○ SROP is important but a lower priority than other diversity programs

○ SROP is not offered on our campus

○ Other (please specify)

[text box]

1. Basic Information

As the primary SROP Coordinator at your institution, you are invited to complete this survey as part of the 2017 SROP Evaluation. Your input is highly valued and will be utilized to draft an evaluation of SROP to be presented to the Graduate Deans of the Big Ten universities. I plan to follow up with you by phone to discuss your responses. If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Miller at the Big Ten Academic Alliance (joseph.miller@btaa.org). Thank you!

1. Your Name

2. Your Institution

3. How long have you served as the SROP Coordinator for your institution?

4. Your Title

5. Other roles besides SROP coordination?

2. Shared Application

6. Does your institution participate in the Big Ten Academic Alliance Shared SROP Application?

◯ Yes

◯ No

7. The Big Ten Academic Alliance Shared SROP Application is effective for recruiting, vetting, and offering positions to SROP applicants.

Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A
◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

8. Are there improvements that could make the Shared Application more effective for recruiting, vetting and offering positions to SROP applicants?

◯ Yes

◯ No

◯ If yes, what changes do you suggest?

9. Over the last three years, on average, what is the size of your SROP cohort each summer?

10. Over the last three years, on average, what percentage of offers made to Shared Application applicants are accepted?

11. Over the last three years, what is your institution's annual average number of offers to applicants from the Big Ten Academic Alliance Shared SROP Application?

12. Does your campus have a separate, direct application for SROP?

○ Yes

○ No

13. Over the last three years, on average, what is your institution's annual number of offers made to applicants from your direct application process (i.e., not via the Shared Applications)?

[   ]

14. Over the last three years, on average, what percentage of offers made to direct applicants are accepted?

[   ]

2017 SROP Evaluation Survey

3. SROP Participant Tracking

15. Does your institution track SROP alumni careers after participation in your summer research experience?

○ Yes

○ No

16. If yes, what do you track (e.g. enrollment in grad school; completion of degree; years to degree)?

[   ]

17. If yes, how do you track (e.g. Google searches, updates from alumni)?

[   ]

18. If you track SROP data, for what time period do you have such data?

[   ]

19. How many SROP students were supported on your campus from Summer 2012 to Summer 2014?

[   ]

20. How many SROP students who previously participated in your SROP program enrolled in a graduate degree program at your institution over the last three academic years (2014/15-2016/17)?

┌───┐
│   │
└───┘

21. How many SROP students who previously participated in an SROP program from other BTAA institutions enrolled in a graduate degree program at your institution over the last three academic years (2014/15-2016/17)?

┌───┐
│   │
└───┘

22. In your opinion, are the current evaluation mechanisms that your institution uses adequate to measure the value of your SROP?

◯   Yes

◯   No

◯   If yes, how is this effectiveness quantified (e.g. percentage of SROP alumni who matriculate in graduate program matriculation; percentage to earned PhD)

┌───┐
│   │
│   │
│   │
└───┘

Over a seven-year period, the Big Ten Academic Alliance has collected applicant data for the Shared Application. This chart highlights key data points broken down by year of application. Notably, there was a significant jump in the number of applicants between years 2013-14 to 2014-15. During this same time, other data points, including number of undergraduate institutions represented, Pell Grant recipients, and applicants with prior SROP Experience, had a similar increase. However, the number of institutions participating in the Shared Application and applicants from Big Ten Academic Alliance universities did not increase at the same level. The average GPA has had an insignificant change over the seven-year timeframe.

	# of institutions participating in Shared Application	# of Applicants	# of Applications to participating instutions	# of UG institutions represented	# of BTAA applicants from UG institutions	# of applicants who are Pell Grant recipients	# of applicants with prior SROP Experience	Avg GPA
2010-11	9	805	4363	271	83	479	50	3.61
2011-12	6	775	3651	288	98	422	37	3.56
2012-13	7	915	4867	288	146	514	30	3.55
2013-14	8	839	4868	271	N/A	484	39	3.55
2014-15	10	1714	9935	434	212	875	66	3.54
2015-16	10	1531	9072	415	190	778	66	3.55
2016-17	10	1491	9387	402	178	728	73	3.58

One of the benefits of the Shared Application is that students can apply to multiple Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions using one application. The number of applications refers to the number of requests for institutions to receive an application from an applicant. Over the seven-year period, the number of campuses participating in the Shared Application has varied. The University of Illinois-Chicago and Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) participated in SROP until participation was restricted to member-only universities in 2011-2012. The University of Maryland and Rutgers University-New Brunswick joined the Big Ten Academic Alliance in 2013-2014. The table below lists only the universities who have participated in the Shared Application at least one year over the seven-year period.

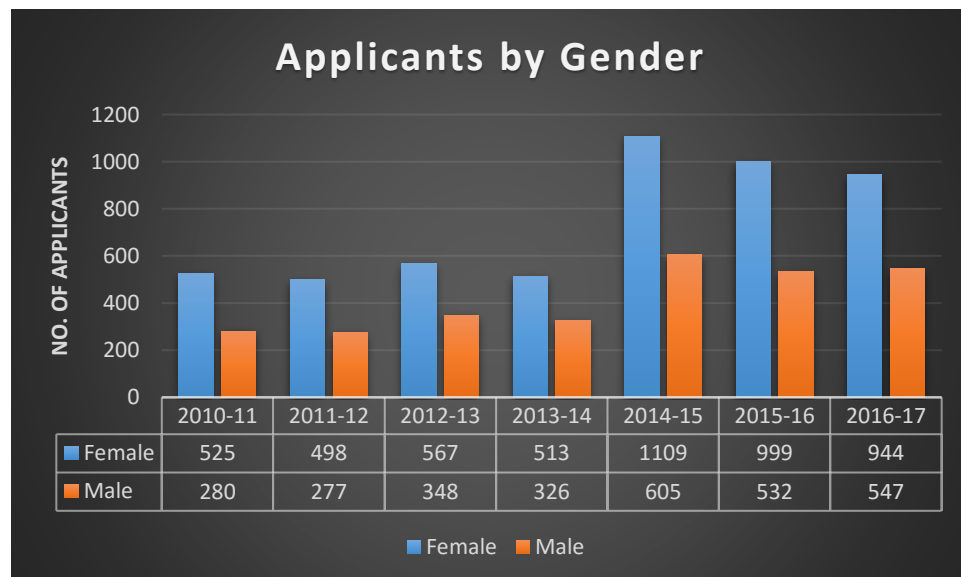| AY	UIC	UIUC	IUPUI	IOWA	UMD	MSU	UMN	NU	OSU	PSU	PU	RU	# of Applications to participating
2010-11	617	579	65	512	--	623	55	0	637	668	607	--	4363
2011-12	--	647	--	596	--	669	416	0	0	670	653	--	3651
2012-13	--	732	--	623	--	720	638	0	732	730	692	--	4867
2013-14	--	656	--	536	0	652	561	0	654	642	629	538	4868
2014-15	--	1066	--	809	1128	1004	804	1170	1057	1098	915	884	9935
2015-16	--	911	--	768	1004	922	765	1056	958	1017	877	794	9072
2016-17	--	974	--	795	923	943	834	1071	1015	1036	932	864	9387

The number of applications per campus varies. No single campus has received an application from all applicants. The campuses with the highest application number has only received applications from approximately 70% of the applicants. By participating in the Shared Application, participating institutions receive a large number of diverse applicants.

The applicant pool maintained a similar proportion by race and gender as the previous years when the applicant numbers nearly doubled. Over the seven-year period, the Shared Application received the highest number of applications from Hispanic/Latino applicants, and African American applicants have been the second highest population. Finally, applications have decreased each year since the peak year of 2014-2015.
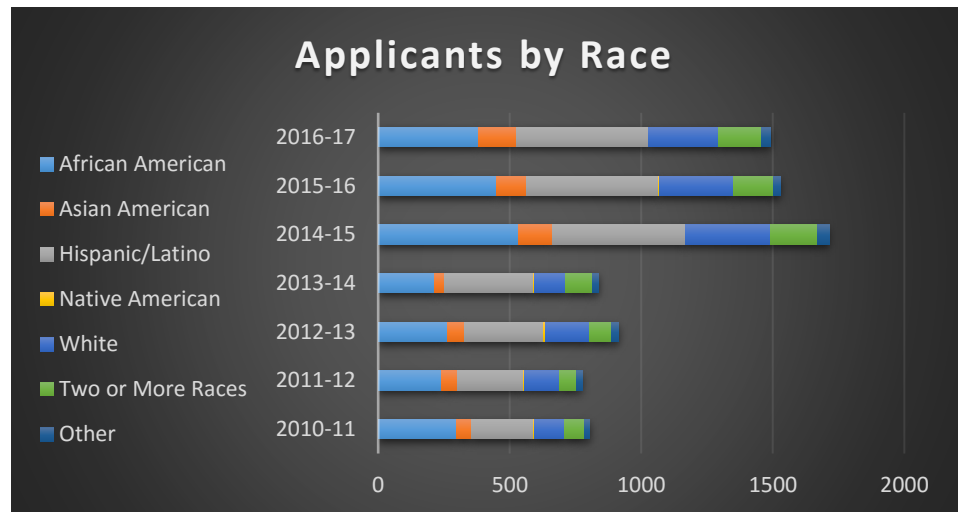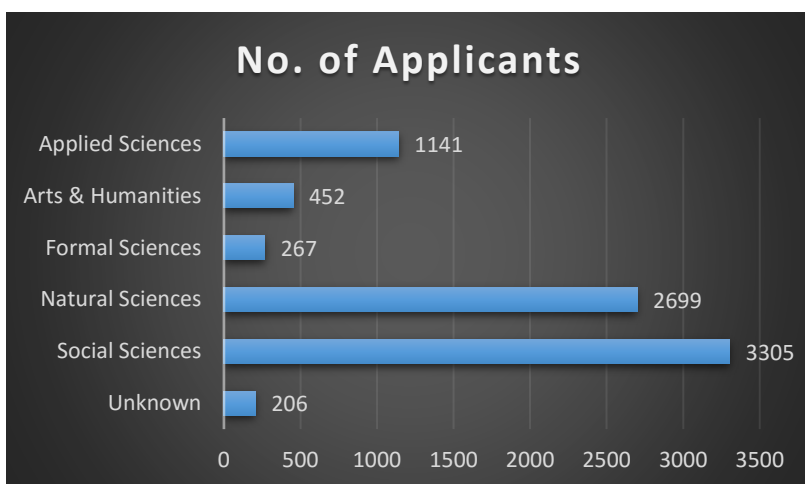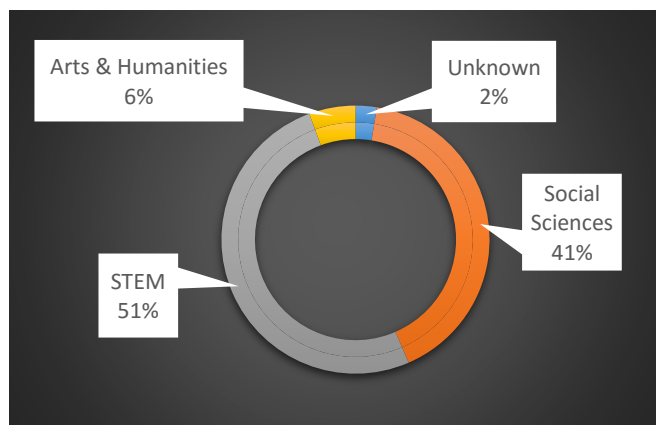

AY	African American	Asian American	Hispanic/Latino	Native American	White	Two or More Races	Other
2010-11	297	58	235	3	117	75	20
2011-12	241	61	251	5	132	65	20
2012-13	262	65	303	6	166	83	30
2013-14	215	37	339	3	119	103	23
2014-15	532	132	503	1	324	179	43
2015-16	451	111	505	1	284	150	29
2016-17	382	144	500	3	265	163	34
	2380	**608**	**2636**	**22**	**1407**	**818**	**199**

Over the seven-year period, the applicant pool has averaged 64% female applicants and 36% male applicants. This ratio has been steady over the seven-year period.

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Female	525	498	567	513	1109	999	944
Male	280	277	348	326	605	532	547

SROP has a long history of focusing summer research experiences in STEM fields. During this seven-year period, over half of the applications were from students majoring in the STEM disciplines. The STEM disciplines are broken into three areas: Applied Sciences (33%), Formal Sciences (3%), and Natural Sciences (14%). Applied Sciences includes Engineering and Health Sciences; Formal Sciences includes Computer Sciences and Mathematics; and Natural Sciences includes Agricultural Sciences, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Earth, Atmospheric & Marine Sciences, and Physics & Astronomy.

Arts & Humanities
6%

Unknown
2%

Social
Sciences
41%

STEM
51%

No. of Applicants

- Applied Sciences — 1141
- Arts & Humanities — 452
- Formal Sciences — 267
- Natural Sciences — 2699
- Social Sciences — 3305
- Unknown — 206

(0, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, 2500, 3000, 3500)

The second largest area of study by applicants was in the Social Sciences discipline. This area includes majors from Business Management, Communications, Education, Psychology, Social Sciences, and Other Professional.

The fields with the highest number of applicants came from Biology (24%), Psychology (23%), Social Sciences (12%), and Engineering (11%).

The number of applications by area of discipline have been consistent over the seven-year period. Formal Sciences and Arts & Humanities continue to have significantly less numbers of applicants. While students majoring in Social Science fields make up the largest percentage of applicants, there has been an 11% decrease in applications from students majoring in Social Sciences since 2014-2015. All majors have decreased since 2014-2015, with the highest decrease from those majoring in Psychology.

Applicants by Area of Discipline

(800, 700, 600, 500, 400, 300, 200, 100, 0)

Applied lSciences · Arts & Humanities · Formal Sciences · Natural Sciences · Social Sciences · Unknown

■ 2010-2011 ■ 2011-2012 ■ 2012-2013 ■ 2013-2014
■ 2014-2015 ■ 2015-2016 ■ 2016-2017