REU Site: Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Disinformation Detection and Analytics

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY®

Challenge:
Unfortunately, due to the lack of understanding of the basic and/or the best available science, and the limited accessibility of credible information, a vast number of citizens are susceptible to disinformation.

Solution:
Students will leverage knowledge and skills learned to discern and debunk disinformation, which could aid their families, friends, and social media contacts and eventually help prevent disinformation from spreading.

ODU REU: Disinformation Detection & Analytics

We invite applications for a **10-week paid summer** NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program focusing on disinformation detection and analytics at **Old Dominion University** in Norfolk, Virginia. Applications are due by **April 10, 2022.**

Disinformation that spreads on the Web and social media isn't just a nuisance, it causes real harm. Participants will develop essential STEM skills for studying disinformation.

Your training involves:
- Research on real-world impacts of disinformation
- New skills including data analytics, information retrieval, applied machine learning, web archiving, & social computing
- Close research mentorship from professors

Hands-on Research

Perks of the program:
- Collaboration & networking with diverse participants
- Paid research experience: $6,000 stipend, $600 travel subsidy, housing & meals provided on campus
- Field trips, guest lectures, and weekend beach fun

Program Dates
June 6 - August 5, 2022

Applicants must be:
- A US citizen, national, or permanent resident
- A student enrolled (during the program period) in a degree program towards a bachelor's degree

Women, under-represented minorities, and students with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply. Ideal candidates would have some programming experience, but we encourage excellent candidates from all backgrounds to apply.

Scientific Impact:
The goal of this REU Site is to engage participating students in real-world projects studying disinformation from the perspectives of data analytics, information retrieval, applied machine learning, web archiving, and social computing.

Broader Impact and Broader Participation:
With its focus on identifying disinformation, this program will broaden the views of the students, providing them with a holistic and in-depth understanding of disinformation and its viral spread across the Web.