OADI Research Scholars Program

Application Packet for
Rising Sophomores/Juniors
Fall 2016

OADI is committed to social justice through increasing access to and equity in higher education. To this end, we strive to help transform the academy through supporting the active participation of underrepresented students in research and scholarship opportunities on campus and beyond. We are dedicated to preparing our students for success in their post-baccalaureate endeavors, including graduate school and professional research positions.

Priority Application deadline: April 1st, 2016

Standard Application deadline: April 15th, 2016
About OADI
The OADI Research Scholars Program is directed through the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and administered by the Director of OADI’s Student Success Program. The program is also connected to the Undergraduate Research Institute which is a network of faculty, staff and students from the Cornell University Libraries, the Office of Undergraduate Research, and the College Scholars, Mellon Mays Fellowship, Tanner Dean’s Scholars, and Hunter R. Rawlings III Cornell Presidential Scholarship Programs.

OADI offers programming and resources to support our students’ engagement in dynamic research and critical discourse to foster academic diversity and cultural inclusion in multiple intellectual communities on and off campus, during their college careers and beyond. This program also provides its participants with research-oriented academic preparation in and professional development for the interpretive social sciences, arts and humanities through coursework, mentoring, culturally-based experiential learning, and informative workshops.

Mission:
The OADI Research Scholars Program provides underrepresented students with opportunities for research-oriented academic preparation in the interpretive social sciences, arts and humanities through coursework, mentoring, and informative events. The program also prepares participants for successful application to prestigious research-based scholarship programs both on campus and beyond.

Objectives:
- Coursework and experiential learning help OADI Research Scholars develop their foundational research skills, build their awareness of research centers and resources, and engage in research opportunities on campus and beyond.
- Active involvement with the OADI Research Scholars Program prepares participants for future prestigious research opportunities, scholarships/fellowships, and graduate programs so they may become thriving and contributing multicultural scholars in their respective academic fields.
- Participants’ scholarship and success are supported through facilitated mentoring relationships with underrepresented graduate students and campus researchers.
- Building relationships with campus and local cultural activists, scholars, librarians, and archivists, OADI Research Scholarship help contribute to the scholarship-activism that strengthen the academy and campus/local activism through a multicultural framework.

Program Benefits:
- For-credit research experience and academic grounding in research methods in the arts, humanities and interpretive social sciences
- Stipend of up to $800 per semester upon successful program completion of program requirements to support ongoing research activity, and greater consideration for other OADI financial grants/scholarships to support conference attendance, research assistantships, community-engagement experiences, etc.
- Personalized mentoring with a current Cornell professor and graduate student and advising from OADI staff
- Student success workshops and individualized research assistance
- Assistance with preparing scholarship/research opportunity applications, including application essays and statements of purpose
- Culminating ePortfolio reflecting your learning and progress through the program
- Resource library (including information on research assistantships, scholarships) and computer lab with complimentary academic printing
Sample Research Topics:
- Sample research topics that have been explored through the OADI Research Scholars Program include:
  - The Model Minority Stereotype at Cornell University
  - Black Women at Cornell: Examining the Intersectionality of Race and Gender
  - Immigration Reform To Address Dairy Labor Demands in New York State
  - Examining how the father-child relationship mediates linkages between family structure and child well-being
  - The Development of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in Female Inmates

Program Requirements
OADI Research Scholars who start the program in the fall of their sophomore or junior year have the option to continue on in the program during their spring semester.

Mandatory Program Requirements
- Successful completion of the required three-credit independent research study.
- Completion of ePortfolio project with reflections on your learning and research progress
- Meeting with Africana Librarian Eric Acree (by September TBD, 2016)
- Graduate Mentoring
  - At least one individual meeting per month with assigned Graduate Research Mentor
  - At least one shadowing experience with assigned Graduate Research Mentor (by November, 2016)
- Attendance at all of the following program events/meetings:
  - Biweekly OADI Research Scholars group meetings (generally alternating Wednesdays at 5:15-6:45p)
  - Monthly advisory meetings with OADI Research Scholars Program staff

Specific to Fall Semester:
- OADI Fall Retreat (October TBD, 2016)
- OADI Diversity in Scholarship & Engagement Fall Symposium (December TBD, 2016), at which Research Scholars NOT continuing in the spring will present their research projects

Specific to Spring Semester
- OADI Winter Recharge Retreat (TBD, 2017)
- OADI Diversity in Scholarship & Engagement Fall Symposium (May TBD, 2017), at which Research Scholars continuing in the spring will present their research projects

Optional Opportunities for Leadership Development & Community Building
- Attendance at an undergraduate research fair or symposium
- Attendance at one of each of the following OADI events:
  - OADI Tuesday Lunch
  - Faculty presentation (lecture/discussion) in a cultural academic department: Africana Studies; Asian Studies; Asian-American Studies; Latino Studies; American Indian Studies; Near Eastern Studies; Center for Study of Inequality; Disability Studies, or Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, etc.
  - Social Justice Roundtable
- Help facilitate one of the prospective Research Scholars meetings
- Attend POSSE Plus Retreat on Leadership Development (February Break – spring semester)
- Present your research to a local school, museum, or community center
- Attend or present at a regional or national conference in your academic discipline
Application Information:

Eligibility & Qualifications

- Applicants must be OADI students who self-identify as any or all of the following:
  - A member of an ethnic group that is underrepresented in U.S. higher/graduate education (students of African, Arab/Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific Islander, Desi, Latino/Latina, Native American/Indigenous, and/or multiracial descent)
  - First-generation students of any cultural background
  - Work-study/Pell-eligible students of any cultural background.
- Applicants must be full-time enrolled students, in their second or third year of study at Cornell University, and majoring (or seriously interested in majoring) in the arts, humanities, and interpretive social sciences.
- Applicants should be passionate about exploring research in these areas and empowering themselves and their communities (however they define them) through their scholarship.
- Applicants should be able to commit at least 8 hours per week to carrying out their program requirements.

Greatest consideration will be given to applicants who apply by the priority deadline and who plan to:

- research Cornell’s history with cultural diversity (as defined by the selected Research Scholar) in order to produce research that will be included in the university’s and OADI’s developing archive
- complete a Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP)/Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) by the summer before their junior year
- pursue graduate education in the arts, humanities or social sciences

Significant consideration will also be given to:

- OADI students who wish to explore cultural histories and identities (race, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender, citizenship/documentation status, ability, faith traditions, veteran status, etc.) through their research with the OADI Research Scholars Program.
- Any students that have been nominated for consideration.

Application Deadline & Selection

- The online program application is here and includes:
  - Complete student information
  - Three (3) short essays (Personal, Passion, and Benefit Statement)
  - Signed agreement to meet OADI Research Scholarship Requirements

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QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS MAY BE ADDRESSED TO:

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