

Goals

The UNITE program is primarily aimed at undeserved or underrepresented high school students in STEM areas. The goals of the UNITE 2021 summer program is to

1. Immerse high school grade students to create interest in STEM disciplines and to prepare them to pursue engineering career.
2. Engage students in a 4-week program that enriches their STEM background by integrating theory and hands-on activities with engineering applications.

Note: Due to COVID situation, the program may be held at JSU campus, or delivered by online

Eligibility/Qualifications

1. High school students of rising 9th grade (going from 8th to 9th) of minority and underrepresented/underserved status with high GPA, ACT/SAT test score or by a recommendation letter from a teacher, and with aptitude for higher education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics disciplines.
2. Plan to pursue a major in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
3. Eligibility criterion: By self-identify to meet with two or more of the following: Student qualifies for free or reduced-price lunch; Student is a racial or ethnic minority historically underrepresented in STEM (Alaska Native, Native American, Black or African American, Hispanic, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; female in specific fields – physical science, computer science, mathematics, and engineering); Student receives special education services or attends a school that operates targeted assistance program; Student is learning English as a second language; Student is a first-generation college-bound candidate

Registration and Application

This registration packet consists of 15 pages. **Submit** the registration packet electronically and by post to the information given at the end of this page. The applicants **must also apply/register** at the UNITE registration site of www.usaeop.com.

Program Site and Duration

All UNITE activities will be held at Room #279/161 of Engineering Building, Department of Technology on the campus of Jackson State University beginning **June 1, 2021 to June 29, 2021**. Classes will be held on all Monday through Fridays from 8.30 am to 1.00 pm. Lunch on your own. Submission deadline is May 1, 2021

Accommodations

Students will commute daily to and from JSU. Parents must bring and take back their children.

Main Activities

Students will participate in a four-week academic program under the supervision of CSET faculty and staff. Activities will include the following:

1. Opening and closing program (parents must accompany the selected participants)
2. Class instruction and lab activities on a variety of topics in Physical Science with specific relevance to engineering applications using Electronics Technology, and Robotics Educational Board. Additional topics consist of Math in relation to ACT preparation; Information Technology awareness, and Computational Thinking.
3. Hands-on activities; Pre- and Post-tests; Assignments; Lab Reports.

Financial Benefit

Student participants who complete the 4-week program will receive a \$400.00 stipend. Attendance is compulsory. Breakfast and lunch will NOT be provided and the students have to bring their own.

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The distinguished history of Jackson State University began on October 23, 1877. The University started as Natchez Seminary, a private school, under the auspices of the American Baptist Home Mission Society of New York for the purpose of educating Mississippi's newly freed slaves. Beginning with only 20 students, the school operated for 63 years as a private church school. In November of 1882, the Society moved the school to Jackson to the site where Millsaps College now stands. A part of this transition was the renaming of the school to Jackson College in recognition of the institution's new, central location in the City of Jackson. Natchez Seminary soon relocated from its site in north Jackson to a tract of land in the southwest section of the city. Construction on the new site began in 1902 and the University remains on this site today. In 1924, the first bachelor degree was awarded. During this period, the major educational activities were directed toward teacher education for in-service teachers. When the American Baptist Home Mission Society withdrew its support from the institution in 1934, it became apparent that state support was needed to sustain the school. The school was transferred from the private control of the church to the state education system and renamed Jackson State College. Initially the school had been specifically designated by the state to train rural and elementary teachers. In 1942, the Board of Trustees expanded the curriculum to a full four-year teacher education program culminating in the Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. The first four-year graduating class under state support received degrees in May 1944. A Division of Graduate Studies was organized during the summer of 1953 and the program of Liberal Arts started in the fall of that year. During the late sixties, the entire curriculum was reorganized and the following schools were established: The Schools of Liberal Studies, Education, Science and Technology, Business and Economics and the Graduate School. Through a legislative act, Jackson State College was designated Jackson State University on March 15, 1974. Jackson State College gained university status in accordance with the expanded breadth and quality of its faculty and academic programs.

From 1967-1977, the faculty had tripled in size and the number of faculty members with graduate degrees increased eightfold. In 1979, the University was officially designated the state's Urban University by the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning. In the late 1980s, the University and its surrounding community were enriched through the expansion of the Universities Center; the establishment of the West Jackson Community Development Corporation to improve blighted housing around the campus; the organization of a Staff Senate; and the creation of a Center for Professional Development and the Center for Technology Transfer.

In the 1990s, a Campus Master Plan that projected the growth of the University into the 21st Century was developed. Fifteen new graduate and undergraduate programs evolved. These academic achievements were bolstered by the establishment of the School of Social Work, the formation of the School of Engineering, the fall 1998 opening of the School of Allied Health Sciences, the School of Business received by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), a \$13.5 million expansion of the H. T. Sampson Library which doubled the capacity of the original structure; and the occupancy of the \$17.2 million School of Liberal Arts building in 2001.

In Fall 2000, the University received doctoral research intensive status with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This prestigious designation was based on the awarding of more than 20 doctoral degrees from the Division of Graduate Studies and the \$40 million in federally funded research contracts secured through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. As the University entered the New Millennium and celebrated its 125th Anniversary in 2002, it developed and implemented its strategic plan -Beyond Survival: The Millennium Agenda for Jackson State University. The five-point strategic plan moved Jackson State University to a new level of academic excellence.

Jackson State University's core values include tradition, accountability, learning, nurturing, service, and responsibility. JSU believes that free expression is indispensable to the safeguarding of these values and that personal expression must be encouraged with only those limitations that are necessary to promote the University's mission for the benefit of all of its students.

The Jackson State University Student Handbook sets forth expectations and guidelines for appropriate student decorum, and this policy is put in place as a supplement to clarify and extend the dress code as well as the proscription against the use of inappropriate language. JSU is committed to fostering an educational environment that, consistent with its academic freedom and mission, prepares its students for success in the classroom and later in their careers. JSU may expect students to adhere to generally accepted standards of conduct. Actions that substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline or otherwise substantially interfere with the University's educational mission or the rights of other students may be regulated. This Decorum Policy shall be applied without discrimination in regard to the viewpoint embodied in a student's dress or language, and it shall be applied to all students on an equal basis. Further, this policy is limited in time and place to University functions and educational facilities, specifically including classrooms. It is strongly encouraged, but not required, that these guidelines be followed elsewhere in an effort to provide a positive representation of ourselves and the University to the best of our abilities. Administrative, faculty, and staff members who observe student behavior proscribed by this Decorum Policy should report any such disregard or violations to the Offices of the Dean of Student Life.

Prohibited Dress

Dress standards promote learning by establishing expectations that will reduce educational distractions as well as help prepare students for later success. These restrictions are minimum requirements that will result in a warning or disciplinary action if not followed. The University expects and strongly encourages its students to adhere to the higher standards of appropriate dress on campus and at University events as recommended in the Student Handbook. Prohibited dress shall include all **lewd or obscene clothing and attire** as well as any clothing or gear that, in the view of the Dean of Students or Vice President of Academic Affairs, **substantially interferes with the effectiveness of the educational environment and mission.** **Lewd** or **obscene** dress shall include attire or the lack thereof that leaves visible an area of the body that traditionally within the locality has been considered private and indecent to expose publicly, and that also lacks artistic or creative value within a particular University curriculum. Traditional private areas shall mean the breasts, buttocks, or areas proximate to the reproductive organs. Dress or gear that substantially interferes with the educational environment may vary depending on the curriculum and context, but may include items that make distracting noises, such as music players, or attire that creates a visual obstruction to others. The only exemption to this dress code exists in the case of a student who, due to a medical condition or properly identified disability, requires such accommodation. Such accommodation, if reasonable, should be attempted with an effort to minimize any negative effect on the educational environment. This policy applies equally and without regard to the religious or secular nature of the attire.

Some examples of inappropriate dress and/or appearance include the following:

- Midriffs or halters, mesh, netted shirts, tube tops or cut-off t-shirts
- Short shorts
- Sagging or unbelted pants
- Do rags
- Clothing with words or images which are prohibited by this Decorum Policy
- Visible underclothing, including undershirts of any color, outside of the living quarters of the residence halls

Prohibited Language

This policy does not prohibit language based on the expressive viewpoint of one's ideas, but rather proscribes certain language based on the disruptive or destructive manner and context in which such language is used.

Lewdness, Obscenity is prohibited.

Fighting Words. Language that by its very utterance tends to incite an immediate breach of the peace or imminent lawless action is prohibited. These words include those which when directed to the person of the hearer would naturally tend to provoke violent resentment. Such words also include those personally abusive epithets which, when addressed to the ordinary citizen, are, as a matter of common knowledge, inherently likely to provoke violent reaction.

Profanity. Profane, vulgar, and curse words are prohibited in limited contexts although their use is widely discouraged by the University. The proscription against profanity shall only regulate the manner of such speech rather than the content of any message conveyed. Profanity may subject a person to discipline when it lacks any artistic or literary value in connection with a University curriculum, it inherently tends to provoke a violent reaction, and it substantially interferes with the educational environment.

Speech in violation of State or Federal Law. Illegal speech is also prohibited. Language usage can violate specific laws depending on the context. Some examples of such laws include disturbing the peace, intimidation, stalking, harassment, defamation, or libel.

Litter-Free Campus

Jackson State University takes great pride in the beauty of our campus. Littering is strictly prohibited and a violation of the University. Littering shall include, among other things, the throwing of debris such as cigarette butts, food wrappers, paper, cans, bottles, or other trash on the ground.

No student shall intentionally dispose of refuse of any kind in or near any building owned or operated by the University except in receptacles provided for that purpose. Intentionally discarding such will be seen and adjudicated as a violation of the University Littering Policy. Fines may be imposed in an amount not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to develop in students a stronger awareness of community, and expectations which are necessary to build a sense of closeness, cooperation, sharing and enjoyment and a feeling of belonging. All groups find comfort in establishing standards of conduct and rules which help to guide the behavior of its members. UNITE recognizes the need for such rules, and also understands the value of defining possible consequences in the event rules are disregarded.

Therefore UNITE Summer program participants are expected to observe the following code of conduct:

1. Arrive a JSU with the understanding that you must complete the full four-week program (June 1 - 29, 2021) without excuse. Therefore, you should not plan other events that would require you to be away during the program.
2. Dress appropriately as outlined in the JSU Student Decorum Policy.
3. Report to your research areas/classroom as assigned or instructed and give your full attention to instructors and to other UNITE personnel.
4. Demonstrate/display conduct that is friendly, courteous, honest and responsible.
5. Show initiative and motivation; work as a team player toward a common goal.
6. Communicate regularly with your mentor on the progress of your studies.
7. Exercise appropriate social behavior; take responsibility for your own actions.
8. Follow safety procedures at all times. Consult with your mentor if procedures are unfamiliar or unclear.
9. Keep your space (area/classroom) clean at all times.
10. Keep a notebook/journal of all activities and data collected, including charts and graphs of all research and/or work performed. **Note:** This journal will be very helpful as you prepare your final report and portfolio.
11. Cell phones and other electronic devices are prohibited during classroom sessions/instructions.
12. Strive to achieve a level of excellence that exceeds the minimal expectations.
13. Give /show respect to all UNITE faculty, staff and other persons you come in contact with on a daily basis.

NOTE: the actions of each individual participant affect not only your personal self and situation but the perception of the UNITE program, the University and other participants as a whole.

Signature of the parent

Name:

Date:

Signature of the applicant

Name:

Date:

The Army Educational Outreach Program is composed of a catalog of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) educational outreach programs including UNITE. This program is sponsored by the United States Army Research Office (ARO) which is funded through the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology (ASA-ALT).

It is important to know that by allowing your child to participate and/or by choosing to participate in UNITE, you are also providing permission to [Army-required AEOP permission forms](#), and the [TSA consent/release form](#), and to student evaluation for research purpose. The purpose of the UNITE evaluation is to gauge the effectiveness of our program and to maintain continuous improvement. The evaluation evidence that we collect will be used to report program outcomes to funding agencies (i.e., ARO & ASA-ALT) and/or for scholarly publications. The evaluation process is essential for the continuation of funding for UNITE.

During this AEOP program experience, students will be asked to respond to various assessment instruments (e.g., questionnaires, demographic information, focus groups, interviews, etc.). Responses to these instruments are VOLUNTARY; students can choose not to participate or to withdraw from participation in these assessment instruments at any time. These assessment tools are not anonymous but all results will be kept strictly CONFIDENTIAL. The resulting data from all assessment tools will be read, entered, and analyzed by authorized personnel only and will be stored in secure, password-protected servers or databases. Any and all reports to sponsors or scholarly publications that utilize the results of our evaluation data will be de-identified prior to analysis and dissemination.

Finally, the AEOP reserves the right to use personal information (i.e., email addresses) to contact participants in the future in an effort to gather information regarding their career or educational success. Personal information will never be distributed outside of the AEOP, will be kept completely confidential, is accessible by authorized personnel only, and will be stored in password protected and secure servers or databases. **By signing below, you and your parents are indicating that you have read and understand the information presented above and that participation in all aspects of the UNITE program, including evaluation/research processes, is authorized.**

UNITE Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

If you have questions or concerns before the program begins, please call Dr. Francis Tului, Program Coordinator at 601 979 8262, Ms. Shanetta Crisler, Department Administrative Assistant (x3913), and Department Chair at 601 979 3913, or CSET Dean at 601-979-2153.

AEOP Contacts: Hillary Lee, TSA UNITE Director, 703.860.9000 as the TSA contact, or visit UNITE site at www.usaeop.com