

Blazer Research Breaks (BRB) Guidelines

The Blazer Research Breaks program is designed to encourage undergraduate student participation in mentored research beyond the classroom. In particular, the goals of the Fall program (Igniting the Blaze) are to

- teach students about the resources currently available at VSU, such as the library, honors college, and study abroad program;
- help students cultivate critical thinking skills in order to develop an idea into a tangible research project;
- encourage students to work with faculty and staff from the university to learn the processes required to engage in high quality undergraduate research at VSU.

Eligibility: Participants must be a freshman, sophomore, or first semester junior and, for returning and transfer students, GPA must be at least 2.5. All majors are welcome to apply

Program Requirements: All eligible students must complete an application which will include a student narrative and a faculty/teacher recommendation letter. Students must also (A) participate fully in both days of the workshop, (B) complete a one-page reflection statement at the end of Day 1, and (C) submit a final two-page reflection statement on a topic to be given at the end of the workshop by October 20, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST. Both reflection statements will follow the same format as the student narrative, described below.

Application Process: All applications will consist of two distinct items: Student Narrative Statement and a letter of Recommendation from a teacher or faculty member. Be sure that both have been submitted by the due date, **September 24, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST.**

1. **STUDENT NARRATIVE (maximum 2 pages, double-spaced):** Use the attached Word document template to answer one of the following questions (a, b, or c). If you wish to include references, do so on a separate page. Choose **only one** to answer:
 - a. What do you want to do after you graduate and how do think undergraduate research will help you to achieve your goal?
 - b. Describe an idea, question, or project you would like to do as a possible undergraduate research project.
 - c. Describe a “research style” project you did in high school or in college and why the project got you interested in doing more research here at VSU.
2. **RECOMMENDATION LETTER:** Submit one recommendation letter from a teacher or faculty member. For freshmen and transfer students, the person may be a teacher who taught you while in high school or at another university or college. The letter should indicate why the person believes you would benefit from participation in the program. All recommendation letters must be emailed to Dr. Dereth Drake at djdrake@valdosta.edu by September 24, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST.

Questions about the program or application process can be submitted by email to Dr. Dereth Drake, Co-Coordinator of Undergraduate Research and Associate Professor of Physics, djdrake@valdosta.edu, ext. 4852. Please note that all application materials must be submitted to Dr. Drake, in either Word document or pdf format, by the deadline of September 24, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST. No late applications will be accepted.