SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

**College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
BSOS Summer Research Initiative (SRI)
Supplemental Application Personal Statement
Instructions**

<u>**Purpose of the Supplemental Application Personal Statement**</u>

A supplemental personal statement is required for consideration for the UMD BSOS Summer Research Initiative (BSOS SRI). Our required supplemental personal statement gives you an opportunity to provide a more detailed explanation of your training and career goals and to help us better understand how your training and career goals align with the specific mission of our program here at Maryland. Your BSOS SRI supplemental personal statement should go beyond, or expand upon, the short personal statements you submitted in the BTAA SROP application portal.

Please limit your supplemental BSOS SRI personal statement to a maximum of 1,200 words (no more than two single-spaced, letter-sized pages, with 1" margins and 12-point font, either Times New Roman or Arial). Elements of the BSOS SRI personal statement instructions are unique to our program's mission, therefore, please read the supplemental statement instructions carefully.

<u>**Supplemental Personal Statement Instructions**</u>

The goal of the BSOS SRI is to increase knowledge of, and interest in, doctoral-level training in the social and behavioral sciences. We are especially interested in those who plan to pursue careers in academia, or as social scientists in other research, teaching, policy, and clinical or public service settings. In 1,200 words or less, please provide a personal statement that explains your (1) graduate education and career goals, as well as (2) your diversity and inclusion interests as they pertain to your research and your career, your life experiences, challenges, and motivations, and your potential future contributions as described below.

Educational and Career Goals (REQUIRED) Please describe your academic experiences to date as they pertain to the social and behavioral sciences. Also describe your plans for graduate training along with your specific field(s) or research questions of interest. Also share with us your career goals as a social and behavioral scientist and how you believe the UMD BSOS SRI might help you reach your educational and career goals.

Diversity and Inclusion (REQUIRED) Please integrate into your discussion of your educational and career goals, how you plan to contribute to increasing the diversity and inclusion of scholars working in the social and behavioral sciences through your research, service,

mentoring, or teaching. In doing so, please address any of the following that pertain to your interests, life or educational experiences, and career aspirations: **1)** contributing to research that benefits or addresses diverse communities, underserved communities, or communities that have been historically distressed or disadvantaged; **2)** contributing to research that addresses disparities that impact underserved communities (e.g., mental health, health, educational, economic, etc.); **3)** contributing to research that addresses economic, social, legal, or environmental justice; **4)** increasing the diversity of the researchers themselves by your presence or through your recruitment or inclusion efforts; **5)** promoting greater diversity and inclusion in research, education, clinical or public service settings, or policy settings.

Additional Guidance

- We encourage you to have your supplemental personal statement and your résumé/CV ready to upload at the time you complete the supplemental BSOS SRI questions.
- Important tip - Students who explain how their specific areas of interest relate to the research of specific BSOS faculty tend to stand out during our applications review. We strongly advise you to consult our BSOS department websites for details on faculty research interests.
- Your statement should be a maximum of two single-spaced, letter-sized pages, with 1" margins and be 1,200 words or less.
- Please use a 12-point, Times New Roman, Arial, or other easy-to-read font.
- Please separate each paragraph of your supplement statement with a full blank line to prevent your paragraphs from merging once you submit or upload your supplemental statement.
- Please upload your statement in a PDF file format (our system only uploads PDF files).

For More Information

If you have any questions about the BSOS SRI at the University of Maryland, please contact the SRI Coordinator, Brittney Robinson, at brobins7@umd.edu.