The Mellon Initiative Steering Committee is pleased to invite applications for the Mellon Institute program at Trinity University. The Mellon Institute is a multidisciplinary summer research program enabling faculty-student research teams from different disciplines to carry out interrelated research projects around a central topic. While similar to the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) program, the Mellon Institute differs primarily in its collaborative and multidisciplinary research process.

Program Details

- Proposals for the Mellon Institute will be accepted from teams of three faculty members from at least two Arts and Humanities departments to carry out interrelated research projects around one central topic. One Institute proposal will be selected annually.
- Faculty participating in the Mellon Institute will each receive a $2,000 stipend.
- Students participating in the Mellon Institute—up to four students—will each receive a $4,200 stipend and may live on campus* during the 10 weeks for free.
- An additional $5,000 will be available per project. These funds may be used to enable travel,* to bring in speakers in the semester before the summer research term, other pre-summer research activities, or to provide other resources needed to accomplish the research project(s).

*COVID-19 Update: Please note that depending on Trinity’s COVID-19 guidelines, travel may not be supported and on campus housing may not be available for summer of 2021.

Requirements

- Students must commit to: 1) work full-time on the project for the entire summer research period; 2) present their findings (to date) at the Summer Undergraduate Research Conference to be held at the end of July; and 3) participate in appropriate summer program activities (e.g. workshops and weekly lunches).
- Faculty mentors may serve on only one research team per year and should also commit to participating in weekly Mellon lunches.
- Teams may not include seniors graduating in May 2021.
- Faculty may be called upon to share their mentorship experiences at workshops during the academic year and to help us make undergraduate research a year-round activity that is part of Trinity’s institutional culture.

Proposal Timeline

Prior to applying for this program, please set up a meeting with Chad Spigel (cspigel@trinity.edu) by November 20, 2020 to discuss your project and the specifics of your proposal. Applications and final proposals are due February 12, 2021.