



### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Undergraduate education and training are central to the mission of [Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center](#) (CMERC). Since 2019, undergraduate students have been conducting independent field research projects at CMERC under the mentorship of different MSU faculty members. Beginning in summer 2023, we formalized the CMERC Summer Undergraduate Research Program, which offers students conducting independent research at CMERC additional opportunities for professional development, networking, and collaboration in a cohort setting. We anticipate hosting 6-8 student researchers in this program during summer 2024.

Students may apply to work on an [ongoing research project at CMERC](#) and/or propose new research. **These are all paid internships.** Funding for these projects (student salary, research supplies, etc.) and faculty mentorship varies. We will work with selected students and their mentors to identify additional internal or external sources of funding that may be available to them. Identifying potential sources of funding will be especially important to students interested in pursuing a new research project.

### **ELIGIBILITY/HOW TO APPLY:**

- To be eligible to participate in the program, you must be a currently enrolled MSU undergraduate student in spring semester 2024 and registered for a minimum of 6 credits during fall semester 2024.
- Students from any major may apply.
- Early applications are encouraged and may increase your chance of placement in a project.
- Please submit (1) your completed application and (2) a copy of your resume to Dr. Rose Stewart ([stewa684@msu.edu](mailto:stewa684@msu.edu)) AND Dr. Jen Owen ([owenj@msu.edu](mailto:owenj@msu.edu)) no later than **Friday, February 23, 2024**.
- Please use “[CMERC Intern Application – Your Last Name](#)” as the subject header of your e-mail. A single PDF document with all requested materials is preferred.

### **APPLICATION:**

**Student Name:**

**MSU E-mail Address:**

**Major(s)/Minor(s):**

**Cumulative GPA:**

**Anticipated Graduation Date:**

**Are you a member of a residential college or other specialized academic program at MSU (e.g., Lyman Briggs, Honors College, RISE, etc.)? Please describe below or put "N/A".**

**What is your availability to participate in the CMERC Summer Undergraduate Research Program between May 6 and July 26, 2024? Can you commit to ~30 hours/week of work during this time? Please list dates of any prior commitments.**

**The following is a list of opportunities at CMERC during summer 2024. Please check any projects that you are interested in being considered for (you may select more than one):**

**Mammal Team (2 students):** One student on this team will focus on maintaining trail cameras and reviewing photos for the ongoing CMERC Wildlife Monitoring Project. The second student will engage in white-tailed deer research at CMERC (focus on fawn movement and disease ecology). Both students will work collaboratively on data collection. There may be opportunities for each student to also develop independent, exploratory research questions related to these projects.

**Avian Team (2 students):** Students will work collaboratively on 3 ongoing projects at CMERC focused on (1) cavity nesting birds, (2) secretive marsh birds, and (3) sedge wren ecology. There will be an opportunity for each student to develop independent, exploratory research questions related to these projects, and (time permitting) the opportunity to initiate work on additional avian species of interest at CMERC.

**Landscape Team (2 students):** One student on this team will focus on the Wild Rice Growth Study at CMERC, now in its third year. This high-profile research project is a great opportunity for someone interested in the ecological and cultural importance of wild rice in wetland habitats. The second student will develop independent research questions related to soil quality and hydrology at CMERC, with special consideration of the historical use of pesticides and fertilizers on the land. Both students will work collaboratively as needed on data collection and may assist with broader vegetation surveys.

**Other Independent Projects (1- 2 students):** Students with specific research interests outside of the focal areas described above are also encouraged to apply. These students should be working to identify potential mentor(s) and sources of funding for their participation. Please reach out to Dr. Rose Stewart if you have a specific research project in mind and would like feedback at this stage.

**What ongoing or new project are you most interested in working on at CMERC? Please indicate if there are specific research questions you would like to pursue related to this project. If a new project, please list any potential mentors you have been in contact with or funding sources you would like to pursue. Please be as specific as possible (1-2 paragraphs).**

**What skills and/or experiences would you hope to gain with your participation in the CMERC Summer Undergraduate Research Program? Please be as specific as possible (1 paragraph).**

**How do you think participation in a summer undergraduate research program will benefit you in the future? Please be specific and reference your future plans when possible (1 paragraph).**

**This experience will require you to work independently with guidance from your mentor(s) (e.g., independently conducting literature reviews, working on experimental design, collecting data, summarizing results) while also working in a team environment. If selected, are you willing and comfortable with working both independently and collaboratively?** Please answer Yes or No; additional comments are optional.

**If selected, are you available to prepare an additional application for funding support during Feb or March 2024 (e.g., CANR Undergrad Research Program, Nat Sci Undergrad Research Support Program, etc.)? This will require independently preparing application materials and then working with mentors to review and finalize.** Please answer Yes or No; additional comments are optional.

**If selected, are you willing to present your research findings at a research forum (e.g., the Fall CMERC mini-symposium, UURAF, Mid-SURE, etc.)? Please note that some funding sources may require this.** Please answer Yes or No; additional comments are optional.

**Please provide any additional information you'd like to include in your application (optional).**

*Thank you for your application. Please contact Rose Stewart ([stewa684@msu.edu](mailto:stewa684@msu.edu)) if you have questions about the program or application process.*