

# Aquatic Ecology & Fisheries Management Research Experience for Undergraduates

## Program to Enhance Diversity in Aquatic Sciences

Summer 2023



Participants will:

- Conduct research in aquatic ecology & fisheries management alongside experts in the field
- Sample Lake Erie and Ohio's inland waters
- Learn about graduate school and careers in aquatic sciences
- Interact with a diverse cohort of peers

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Current undergrads with 1+ year of college credit completed by June 2023; open to spring 2023 grads
- Ability to live in Ohio for the duration of the program (start dates in late May or early June 2023)
- At least 1 completed college-level course in ecology



- Participants will receive \$6000 total stipend during the 10-week program
- Participants will work in one of three locations in Ohio: Columbus, Sandusky, or Hebron

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 31, 2023 | [AEL.OSU.EDU/REU](https://ael.osu.edu/reu)**



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EVOLUTION, ECOLOGY AND ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY  
AQUATIC ECOLOGY LABORATORY



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The Aquatic Ecology & Fisheries Management Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program seeks to expand interest and enhance diversity in the fields of aquatic ecology & fisheries management.

Participants in this REU program will work with a mentor to choose a topic and research question and then design a project, collect & analyze data, and communicate the results. We expect research topics to range from zooplankton ecology, to impacts of management decisions on fish behavior and growth, to impacts of human-driven environmental change on fish populations and food webs.

Participants will also take part in professional development sessions that will provide a robust view of careers in aquatic and fisheries science, as well as guidance on how to become more confident and qualified when applying for graduate school and jobs in this field.

### Locations:

- The Ohio State University's Aquatic Ecology Laboratory, Columbus, Ohio
- Ohio Division of Wildlife, Sandusky Fisheries Research Station, Sandusky, Ohio
- Ohio Division of Wildlife, Inland Fisheries Research Unit, Hebron, Ohio

### Stipend:

Participants will earn \$6,000 over the course of the 10-week program. All other costs (including housing, meals, and travel) must be covered by participants.

### Eligibility:

Current undergraduates residing in the U.S. enrolled at a U.S. institution who will have completed 1+ year of college credit by June 2023; open to spring 2023 graduates. Applicants must have also completed at least one college-level course in ecology or related discipline. Applicants may be asked for a résumé after they submit their application.

Applicants do not need extensive experience in research or aquatic science to apply for and receive a spot in the program. We are seeking diverse students from backgrounds that may not have historically had access to the aquatic or fisheries sciences communities, in addition to students who are more actively seeking opportunities in aquatic or fisheries science.

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### Application Essay Questions

Below are the long form essay questions on the REU application. Use this list to help you prepare your answers so that you may more easily enter them into the online application form. Note that all questions have a 2000 character limit.

- Why are you interested in (or what attracted you to apply to) this REU? Please discuss how this REU fits into your long-term career or educational goals.
- **WORK/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:** If you have been working or volunteering while in school, please tell us more about your experience. For example: Where do you work/volunteer? How many hours per week? What skills do you believe you have learned? Include any other information you find pertinent.
- **PERSERVERANCE:** Describe a time when you faced a difficult academic challenge or personal hurdle that you successfully navigated. What was the challenge and how did you handle it?
- **RESEARCH:** If you have had any experience(s) with research (in class, in a lab, or at work), please share them here. What was particularly interesting to you? What did you learn? If you have not had research experience, what excites you about research or this REU?
- **LEADERSHIP:** Outside of your academic experiences, can you share any leadership roles or service experiences you have held in your community, workplace, or religious institution? Were there any accomplishments related to this experience that you are proud of?

We realize you are more than the sum of the information from the questions above, so you will also have a space to share anything else about yourself that you think will help us better understand the information you provide, better understand who you are, or better highlight your fit for this REU.

You will also be asked to list all college-level math, science, statistics, and programming courses in which you earned a C or better and the name and contact information of at least one and not more than two references.

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