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2026 Summer Training Academy for Research Scholars (STARS) Program
June 8 - July 31, 2026, at San Francisco State University
Application Form
Application Deadline: January 30, 2026

The 2026 **STARS Program** is a summer research program hosted by San Francisco State University (SFSU) School of Engineering to provide Bay Area community college students with cutting-edge research experiences in exciting fields spanning robotics, mobile computing, seismic engineering, cyber-physical systems, assistive technologies, and community engaged engineering design. The 8-week program is co-led by six award-winning SF State engineering faculty and sponsored by a Bay Area K16 Collaborative Implementation Grant.

Program Dates and Location

- June 8 - July 31, 2025, at SFSU
- The internship requires the interns to work 30 hrs/wk in the hosting research lab at SFSU.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be enrolled in an engineering or relevant STEM program of a California community college in Spring 2026.
- Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Applicants must be at least 18 by the program start date (June 8, 2026).

Program Benefits

- Engage in cutting-edge research under the guidance of faculty mentors in various engineering and science fields.
- Access to state-of-the-art laboratories and facilities in the new Science and Engineering Innovation Center.
- Connect with faculty, graduate students, industry professionals, and the SF State MESA program to build valuable professional networks and expand your opportunities.
- Join a community of like-minded peers from diverse backgrounds and share learning experiences.
- $4,000 compensation

Will you be enrolled in a California community college in Spring 2026? (Note: Applicants must be enrolled in an engineering or relevant STEM program at a California community

college in Spring 2026.)

○ Yes

○ No

Are you a U.S. citizen or permanent resident? (Eligible applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.)

○ Yes

○ No

Will you be 18 years old or older by June 8, 2026? (Applicants must be at least 18 years old by the program start date, June 8, 2026.)

○ Yes

○ No

Contact Information

(All the fields in this section are required to complete the application.)

First Name

[   ]

Last Name

[   ]

Email Address:

[   ]

Phone Number:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

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Academic Information

(All the fields in this section are required to complete the application.)

Current Institution

Current Major

Current Overall College GPA

[   ]

Expected Semester and Year of Transfer

[   ]

Which major do you potentially have an interest in pursuing at a Four-Year Institution?

☐ Civil Engineering

☐ Computer Engineering

☐ Electrical Engineering

☐ Mechanical Engineering

☐ Computer Science

☐ [   ] Other

☐ Undecided

Where are you currently considering transferring for your bachelor's degree? (Select all that apply)

☐ San Francisco State University (SFSU)

☐ Another CSU campus

☐ A UC campus

☐ A private university

☐ Out-of-state university

☐ I'm not sure yet

☐ [   ] Other (please specify):

Coursework (Please check all of the courses that you will have completed by June 2025.)

☐ Calculus I

☐ Calculus II

☐ Calculus III

☐ Linear Algebra

☐ Differential Equations

☐ Physics I (Classical Mechanics)

☐ Physics II (Electromagnetism)

☐ Physics III (Waves and Thermodynamics)

☐ Statics

☐ Dynamics

☐ Materials Science

☐ Circuits

☐ MATLAB

☐ Programming in C/C++

☐ Programming in Java

☐ Programming in Python

☐ Engineering Graphics / Computer Aided Design (e.g., SolidWorks)

☐ Introduction to Engineering

☐ Introduction to Unix/Linux

☐ Data Structures and Algorithms

☐ Probability and Statistics

Career Interest Information

(All the fields in this section are required to complete the application.)

Provide a brief description of your academic plans, career goals, and research interests.

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Briefly explain your motivation for participating in the Summer Research Internship Program.

Please describe any experience or skills that would be valuable for an engineering research internship. Examples include:

- Hands-on experience (labs, projects, repairs, fabrication, etc.)
- Programming skills
- Experience with hardware or software tools
- Communication skills (oral or written)
- Other technical training or relevant experiences

Feel free to include coursework, class projects, or informal experience.

Rank in order (1 = Most Preferred to 6 = Least Preferred) for which potential research laboratories do you have an interest in pursuing for the summer research program? Please drag the available options and place them in order.

Personalized Health and Assistive Technologies Laboratory (PHAST Lab) (Director: Dr. Alyssa Kubota)

Controls for Assistive and REhabilitation Robotics Laboratory (CARE Lab) (Director: Dr. David Quintero)

Community Engaged Engineering Design Laboratory (CEED Lab) (Director: Dr. Kenya Mejia)

Intelligent Computing and Embedded Systems Laboratory (ICE Lab) (Director: Dr. Xiaorong Zhang)

Intelligent Structural Hazard Mitigation Laboratory (iSHM Lab) (Director: Dr. Zhaoshuo Jiang)

Mobile and Intelligent Computing Laboratory (MIC Lab) (Director: Dr. Zhuwei Qin)

Are you able to commit to participating in the Summer Research Program on campus at San Francisco State University if required? Please note that the internship involves a commitment of 30 hours per week from June 8 to July 31, 2026.

○ Yes

○ No

○ Unsure

The program will hold a virtual information session in March 2026 and an on-campus session on a Saturday in early April 2026. We strongly encourage students to attend both. Are you currently able to attend these sessions?

○ Yes

○ Possibly — depends on the exact date

○ No

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Voluntary Self-Identification Information

Gender Identity

○ Woman

○ Man

○ Non-binary / Third gender

○ Prefer not to say

Are you Hispanic or Latino?

○ Yes

○ No

○ Prefer not to say

How do you identity your race (Select all that apply)

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Asian

☐ Black or African American

☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

☐ White

☐ [   ] Other (please specify):

☐ Prefer not to say

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Reference Information

A reference check is required from a math, science, or engineering (STEM) professor who has either taught or worked with the applicant. Applicants must include their reference's contact information in the application form. If short-listed, we will reach out to your reference to complete the reference check.

Contact information of the reference:

Reference Name

[   ]

Position/Title

[   ]

Email Address

Phone Number

Your relationship to the reference

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Please share any additional questions, comments, or suggestions you may have.