



NASA Space Grant and NASA ASTEROIDS UREP Program Comparisons:

Question	NASA Space Grant	NASA ASTEROIDS UREP
How long has this program been in operation?	The National NASA Space Grant Program began in 1989, and Arizona Space Grant was established that same year. The Arizona Space Grant network includes ASU, NAU, Embry-Riddle, and 7 community colleges in Arizona, as well as alumni, mentors, and affiliates in government, science centers, etc.	The UREP program just began in June 2020 as an emerging NASA STEM program. It draws on the experience of seasoned faculty and researchers in engineering and planetary science from University of AZ, Pima Community College, University of Puerto Rico, and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.
How is this program supported by NASA?	NASA Space Grant is supported by NASA STEM.	ASTEROIDS UREP is supported by NASA STEM.
Do I have to apply, and how?	Yes, you can apply through the NASA Space Grant website by clicking on "Students", "Intern Application". The application deadline is in early July for the upcoming academic year. Interns are informed of their placement a few weeks later.	Yes. In order to apply, please visit the ASTEROIDS Laboratory website and click "Join", "Application Form". The form will be live when applications are being received during the spring semester.
How long will I be involved in the program?	The NASA Space Grant opportunity is a one-academic year (August – May) undergraduate research internship that includes a faculty mentor.	UREP begins with a Summer Academy of introductory courses over 5 weeks. Students are then considered for an extended one-academic year (July – May) research experience based on their summer performance and interest.
Will I be compensated for my involvement in the program?	Yes, NASA Space Grant interns are hired as UArizona student employees for the academic year and are paid an hourly wage (AY21-22, \$12.50/hour).	Yes, ASTEROIDS UREP students are hired as UArizona student employees for the academic year and are paid an hourly wage at the state minimum wage.
What is the time commitment for this program?	The NASA Space Grant Program allows interns to work up to 20 hours per week during the academic year. Weekly hours may fluctuate, but interns must work a	During the 5 weeks of the UREP Summer Academy, students are in class or the lab for 15 hours per week with approximately 5 hours a week of homework. During the academic year, UREP

	minimum of 160 hours during the internship period.	allows students to work 10-15 hours per week. Weekly hours may fluctuate depending on school and research requirements.
What types of projects are available to undergraduate students, and how is my faculty mentor assigned?	NASA Space Grant has a large pool of faculty mentors from various space science fields around campus. This allows for a variety of potential projects. Both interns and mentors must apply each year for the program. Top-selected students are then matched with mentors based on their shared interests, project needs, and more. However, mentors and interns may request to work with one another.	As part of UREP, students work with one of the ASTEROIDS-associated research mentors. Each individual student is part of a focused research project in space systems engineering, space instruments engineering, space science/planetary science, chemical engineering, or propulsion and ISRU, depending on the specific faculty mentor and interest. Additionally, all students will be contributing to a CubeSat mission as a group.
How will my research work be featured?	Each April, the Arizona NASA Space Grant Consortium holds a statewide symposium where interns from all affiliate universities and colleges present PowerPoint presentations with time for Q&A.	UREP has a fall and spring research symposium for students to present their research projects, along with various additional showcases for NASA STEM and additional partners. Publication and conference opportunities may also be available.
What NASA opportunities do I have after the internship?	Space Grant may nominate up to 12 students each semester for paid NASA Center Internships. When funding permits, Space Grant may nominate <i>and</i> fund NASA Center Internships (at least 1 per year).	ASTEROIDS UREP faculty nominate up to 7 students for a paid NASA Center Internship as a continuation of their research experience. After the first year and when funding permits, ASTEROIDS may also nominate and fund NASA Center Internships (at least 1 student per year).

*Please note these responses may not be applicable for Puerto Rico students given NASA policies.
Please consult with Dr. Cotto-Figueroa if you have any questions.*