

So many students apply for summer programs and are not accepted. Most times detailed feedback is not provided. Here are some reasons an applicant may not be accepted into a program:

- **The applicant's goals and interests do not match the program.** There is a lot of competition for each program. Make sure that whatever aspirations/experience you have written about in your essay/resume match what the program is looking for.
- **The applicant's letters of recommendation are not specific.** It is important that the faculty, advisor, teacher, or employer write a strong letter of recommendation, being sure to discuss how the summer program matches the student's long- and short-term goals.
- **The applicant lacks the skills.** Many summer projects do not require specific skills, but some do. Be sure to read summer program requirements carefully.
- **The applicant is not academically well prepared.** Some programs require a certain grade point average to be accepted. Some do not. For those that do not, poor grades should be discussed in the essay and/or letters of recommendations.
- **The applicant seems indifferent or unenthusiastic during the application and/or interview process.** One of the most important characteristics of successful applicants is enthusiasm! Remember to respond to phone calls and emails promptly.
- **The applicant cannot participate for the full length of the program.** Read the program requirements carefully. Since the program is on a reduced timeframe, accommodations for conflicts are rarely made.
- **There are simply too many good applicants.** There can be more highly qualified applicants than yourself.

Do not give up! Remember to match the summer program with your goals and experience. Be enthusiastic. Have strong recommendation letters. Get good grades. Respond promptly. Good luck!