The aim of our scoring rubric is to establish fairness in the evaluation of applicants from diverse backgrounds, disciplines, education levels, and abilities. We acknowledge that students from underrepresented groups and their families have faced unequal educational opportunities and resources, and therefore, we consider these factors when assessing the impact of their selection into the program. Our assessment is comprehensive and considers the challenges and barriers faced by applicants in their journey towards participating in undergraduate research, be it due to the pandemic, lack of structural support or other life circumstance issues. We look for applicants who have taken initiative in maximizing their resources, strive for personal growth, and have overcome significant difficulties and are thus in need of the exceptional support we offer. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we will have a particularly thorough and considerate approach in evaluating applicants this year.

Colors of the Brain applicants are evaluated by our selection committee based on three categories: **Need for Support**, **Initiative and Motivation for Research**, and **Commitment and Distance Traveled to Accomplish Career Goals.**

**Need for Support:** Evaluation criterion for a candidate's ongoing sources of financial and professional support for a career in research. Also evaluates a candidate’s clarity of vision for how the program can specifically help them achieve their short- and long-term career goals.

**Initiative and Motivation for Research:** Evaluation criterion for a candidate’s creativity and initiative to pursue a career in research. Also evaluates a candidate’s clarity of vision for their research interest and how their past experiences influenced their motivation for a career in research.

**Commitment and Distance Traveled to Accomplish Career Goals:** Evaluation criterion for a candidate's promise of continued significant contributions to research. Also evaluates a candidate’s demonstrated capacity for career accomplishment based on sustained drive and efforts to overcome significant obstacles on their educational path.

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applicants may be awarded 0-5 points in each of the categories (for a potential total of 15 points) based on the following criteria:

|  | ***0-1 points*** | ***2-3 points*** | ***4-5 points*** | **Points Awarded:** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Need for support** | Does NOT show a clear need for support and/or is already gaining exceptional support financially or research experience elsewhere | Needs some sort of support and has a limited or complicated past with research experience | Shows clear need for research experience and financial support and can benefit immensely from this experience |  |
| **Initiative and Motivation for Research:** | No evidence of persistence in achieving long-term goals or motivation for a career in neuroscience | Some evidence of persistence and motivation but not explicitly stated | Evidence of persistence and motivation including initiative in seeking out opportunities and taking full advantage of them |  |
| **Commitment and Distance Traveled to Accomplish Career Goals** | Does NOT demonstrate evidence for resilience and commitment to persevere throughout the entirety of the research experience | Demonstrates some resilient traits and commitment to persevere throughout the entirety of the research experience | Fully demonstrates a resilient and persevering attitude that shows commitment to the entirety of the research experience |  |

**Total points:**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Additional notes for review panel:**