



DEAL Application 2025-2026

Eligibility

Are you an undergraduate student as of the 2025-2026 academic year?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Acknowledgments

Before you apply, please be aware of the following:

Applications to join the DEAL substantially outnumber assistantships offered: over AYs 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 combined, 93 hires were made among 339 applicants. Many highly qualified students will therefore go unrecruited simply because there are so many more of you than positions available. As such, applications that lack requested information -- including your resume and transcript along with explanations of your interest/expectations and potential community contributions that are tangible and thoughtful (yet concise, as the free response character limit is 1,000 and you are not penalized for not reaching this) -- are unlikely to merit serious consideration.

Please acknowledge your understanding that applying to the DEAL does not guarantee eventual placement and incomplete applications have a reduced chance of success.

- ☐ Yes

In addition...

Assistantship availability is determined by individual faculty needs rather than the director acting on behalf of the lab at large. Recruiting is most active at the beginning of each semester, but positions will open at variable and unpredictable times throughout the year, including over the summer.

Because the timing and intensity of hiring is difficult to forecast, you will NOT receive a status update after you apply. Applications are never "rejected": not hearing back from us implies merely that you have not yet been recruited, not that you've been eliminated from consideration. Your application will remain active throughout the 2025-2026 academic year -- and 2026 summer if you have not graduated by then -- without the necessity of any further action on your part. In the meantime, if you wish to provide additional information that you believe might be useful for us to know, simply submit a new application form and complete just the fields that you'd like to update.

Please acknowledge your understanding that recruiting is decentralized, you will automatically remain eligible for positions that become available through summer 2026, and a request for a status update is unlikely to yield information beyond what appears on this page.

☐ Yes

Furthermore...

DEAL participation requires steady work effort resulting in the timely production of deliverables. Woodman Scholars are expected to regularly meet with faculty and other team members, consistently document and provide updates on work activity, promptly respond to emails (including from the director), and expeditiously seek clarification when assigned tasks are unclear. RAs are an essential part of the research production function: not fulfilling work obligations, including being unreachable by your team for any length of time, adversely affects faculty productivity and can therefore result in your termination.

Moreover, as we build the lab into a collaborative research community, contributions benefiting the group apart from your specific research team are also expected, such as maintaining a presence in our lab space (Social Sciences 311) along with attending or assisting with organizing various events and training sessions. Failure to participate in at least some lab-wide programs can also result in termination.

Please acknowledge your understanding of the responsibilities that accompany the Woodman Scholar title and consequences of not fulfilling them.

☐ Yes

And finally...

Duke cannot compensate undergraduates working outside of North Carolina, but also requires that students are paid if employed by the university. This means that you must be on campus during the academic year, or in-state during the summer, to be eligible for initial hire. Previously hired Scholars in good standing are considered inactive while studying away from Duke, but retain their RA position upon return without the need to reapply.

Please acknowledge your understanding of the locational requirements for being hired by the DEAL.

☐ Yes

Applicant info

What is your expected graduation term -- e.g., Spring 2028 if you are a first-semester sophomore during Fall 2025?

If you have a preferred nickname, what is it? (Your full name, NetID, and Duke email are captured automatically upon submitting this survey.)

If you have preferred pronouns, what are they?

Why are you interested in joining the DEAL and what do you hope to achieve as a Woodman Scholar? (1,000 character limit)

In which economics faculty's research do you have particular interest? While the set of faculty with active DEAL projects changes frequently, everyone included at <https://econ.duke.edu/deal/people> has participated at some point, and others listed on our department page could prospectively decide to do so at any time. You can also feel free to indicate if you have no preference or are willing to work with faculty not on your list. (1,000 character limit)

Among the fields of economics listed as main categories or subheadings at <https://econ.duke.edu/mentors-majors>, indicate any in which you have particular interest and briefly explain if there are specific motivations for these choices. But you should again feel free to indicate if you have no preference or are willing to work in fields not on your list. (1,000 character limit)

Attach a **PDF** copy of your resume with the name [Your NetID]_resume (e.g., jd504_resume).

Attach a **PDF** copy of your current Duke transcript (unofficial is fine), or your high school/previous college transcript if you have not yet completed a semester at Duke,

similarly named [Your NetID]_transcript (e.g., jd504_transcript).

For each core course below, indicate the semester you took it (e.g., Fall 2024) and your letter grade, or the current semester (without a grade) if now enrolled in it. Leave blank any that you have not taken -- and remember that not yet having studied economics at Duke (or otherwise) does not exclude you from consideration!

	Have you taken...	
	Semester	Grade
Econ 101	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Econ 104	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Econ 201	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Econ 204	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Econ 210	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Econ 301 (formerly 205)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

What are your declared, intended, or most likely major(s), minor(s), and other academic disciplines of focus?

List your software/programming skills (e.g., STATA, Python, R, Matlab, GIS, and anything else you think is relevant), as well as your level of proficiency in each (beginner, intermediate, or advanced).

Briefly describe any previous academic research experience you have, including the faculty advisor, project title/description, and your role -- though again, prior research experience is not a prerequisite for DEAL participation. (1,000 character limit)

Beyond providing research assistance to faculty, a continuing goal of the DEAL is to become more of a cohesive unit that improves the well-being of the community, including that consisting of its own members. How do you envision contributing to this goal? (1,000 character limit)

Are you eligible to receive work study funds to subsidize your compensation? (Virtually all domestic students who complete the FAFSA and international students receiving need-based aid are.)

What is your ideal start date?

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