Program Info

The HERO program runs for eight weeks during the summer (paid by stipend), then continues throughout the following academic year (1 credit per semester).

The summer portion of HERO typically begins the week following University Commencement and continues until mid-July (8 weeks duration). During these weeks, students participate in fieldwork, research, data analysis, and presentations. Fieldwork often includes daily travel to and from field sites in Massachusetts. The program concludes in July with a final presentation to members of the Clark and Worcester community (HERO Stakeholder Summit).

During the following academic year, HERO students continue to apply their research in weekly meetings with HERO faculty and Graduate Research Assistants to formulate larger independent projects. Students will have opportunities to attend local and national conferences to present research and represent the HERO program.

HERO Directed Research credits can satisfy the Capstone requirement in the Geography and Global Environmental Studies majors. Many HERO students turn their research projects into Honors projects, and many continue on to the MS-GIS Accelerated Degree Program as well.

How to Apply

Applications for HERO Summer are circulated in late-fall/early-spring and can be found on the HERO program website. Details and instructions are posted each year when applications open.

Contact Us

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Visit Our Website for More Details

clarku.edu/departments/hero

Human Environment
Regional Observatory
Research Experience for Undergraduates at Clark University

About Hero
clarku.edu/departments/hero
WHAT IS HERO?

The Human-Environment Regional Observatory (HERO) program is a unique undergraduate-graduate-faculty experience that engages in research on human-environment relationships in Massachusetts. HERO Fellows conduct hands-on research under the mentorship of Clark University faculty. The research conducted by HERO Fellows often leads to scholarly publications, presentations at academic conferences across the USA, and awards and honors.

HERO Fellows analyze the causes and consequences of global environmental changes at local scales in faculty-led research projects. Each Fellow is paired with a Clark faculty mentor and other researchers on the HERO team. Fellows will learn how to use various research methods such as GIS, remote sensing, geostatistical modeling, interviews, and focus groups.

- Unique hands-on research experience working with graduate students and faculty
- Opportunities for publications, presentations, honors, and awards
- Stipend for 8 weeks of research, plus academic credit
- Funding for attendance to present research at the Association of American Geographers (AAG) annual scholarly meeting


-- Savannah Sanford, HERO ’16 Fellow Quote from Clark News article by Meredith King, July 2016

HOW DO I BECOME A HERO STUDENT?

Based on a competitive application process, each year the HERO program selects a diverse group of undergraduate students to be HERO Fellows. HERO values students who demonstrate energetic and inquisitive minds, and who are fearless when charting new intellectual territory. Previous course work in research methods (Geog 141 or equivalent), and human or environmental geography — such as urban and population studies, GIS, landscape ecology, land-use planning, statistics, and remote sensing — is helpful but not required.

Applications can be found annually online at: clarku.edu/departments/hero