# 2025 Veterans Innovation Fellowship Application (VetIF)

## NSF Center for Complex Particle Systems (COMPASS)

Please submit the following fellowship application and all other required documents to Dr. Jeffery Raymond ([jefferyr@umich.edu](mailto:jefferyr@umich.edu)) on or before the submission deadline of **March 3rd, 2025**. Fellowship recipients will be notified on or before **May 1st, 2025**. The fellowship will then commence on **September 1st, 2025**.

Required Documents: This application (completed)

**(Attach and Email)** DD 214

Transcripts (all)

3 letters of recommendation

Any non-academic training or education (optional)

Applicant Requirements (READ CAREFULLY):

1. Must have served in or be currently serving in the US military as an enlisted member.
2. Must be attending or accepted to attend one of the following universities\*:
   1. University of Michigan – Ann Arbor
   2. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
   3. North Carolina State University
3. Must be pursuing an undergraduate degree program in an area relevant to the study of complex physical systems. This may be experimental, theoretical, or computational. Special consideration will be given to individuals in chemistry, physics, materials science, computational modelling, or engineering disciplines.\*
4. Must be seeking a career in basic, basic applied, or applied research.
5. Must desire to be a technical and/or innovation leader.
6. Must intend on pursuing a graduate degree program that will culminate in the attainment of a PhD.
7. Must be able to serve as an undergraduate research assistant for one or more COMPASS faculty members during the academic school year with an average time commitment of 15 hours/week.\*
8. Must be able to commit to a full-time schedule (32-40 hours) performing research during summer semesters and must be proactive in applying to summer research programs in industry, defense, federal, or academic laboratories.

\*Please see the COMPASS website (https://compass.engin.umich.edu/) to familiarize yourself with the faculty members that comprise the Center. While you will be partnered with one or more faculty for your fellowship and research training, at least one faculty member must be with your home institution. For UIUC, this will be Prof. Qian Chen. For NCSU, this will be Prof. Martin Thuo.

This application is intentionally left in a ".docx" format for ease of access. Applicants should not be concerned about changes in format that occur due to text entry. Please do not alter any of the text presented in the original document. Failure to submit all required materials may constitute disqualification from having your application reviewed.

\*\*\* I have read and understand the above statements: \_\_\_\_\_\_ 🡨 Initials

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A. PERSONAL INFORMATION**  If not applicable, place "NA" | |
| Last Name |  |
| First Name |  |
| Preferred Name |  |
| Email |  |
| Phone |  |
| Date of Birth |  |
| Enlistment Date |  |
| Termination Date |  |
| Branch |  |
| MOS Number |  |
| MOS Title |  |
| Rank |  |
| Current University |  |
| Prior College |  |
| Major(s) |  |
| Minor(s) |  |
| Cumulative GPA |  |
| Expected graduation date |  |
| Total credit hours completed before Fall semester 2025 |  |
| One or more COMPASS faculty members with whom you would like to work |  |

This program has an undergraduate research commitment during the academic school year.

Initial here if you agree with the following statement: \_\_\_\_\_\_ 🡨 Initials

"I understand that this fellowship has a research assistant component that must be met with an average time commitment of ca. 15 hours during the academic school year. I understand that this program is meant to displace the need for other paid or unpaid work during the academic school year. "

This program has a considerable time commitment during the summer.

Initial here if you agree with the following statement: \_\_\_\_\_\_ 🡨 Initials

"I understand that this fellowship has a summer research component that must be met with an average time commitment of ca. 32-40 hours during the summer months. I also understand that I will work with the fellowship program manager to be able to attend a summer research program outside of my faculty mentor's laboratory. I understand that this program is meant to displace the need for other paid or unpaid work during the summer."

If the stipend for this program would impact your financial aid package, we would ask that you reduce the fellowship stipend prior to other aid.

Initial here if you agree with the following statement: \_\_\_\_\_\_ 🡨 Initials

"I understand that the stipend from this fellowship may impact my financial aid package. If my institution must reduce my financial aid package, I will endeavor to reduce the portions of the fellowship's stipend prior to reducing other components of my financial aid."

**B. ESSAY 1: RESEARCH (<500 words)**

*Please describe how you became interested in a career as a researcher and what you might hope to accomplish in that career.*

**D. ESSAY 2: MILITARY IMPACT**

*Please explain how your time enlisted in the US military informs your world view and how it might distinguish you from students with a non-military background.*

**E. ESSAY 3: REFLECTION (<500 words)**

*In your own words, describe a time when you struggled academically, intellectually, or emotionally and how you used your mentors and peers to overcome this struggle.*

Reviewer 1

Military Background \_\_\_/10

Academics \_\_\_/20

Match with COMPASS \_\_\_/20

Writing Quality \_\_\_/10

Essay 1: Research \_\_\_/10

Essay 2: Military Impact \_\_\_/10

Essay 3: Reflection \_\_\_/10

Letters of Recommendation \_\_\_/10

**Total \_\_\_/100**

Reviewer 1 Notes:

Reviewer 2

Military Background \_\_\_/10

Academics \_\_\_/20

Match with COMPASS \_\_\_/20

Writing Quality \_\_\_/10

Essay 1: Research \_\_\_/10

Essay 2: Military Impact \_\_\_/10

Essay 3: Reflection \_\_\_/10

Letters of Recommendation \_\_\_/10

**Total \_\_\_/100**

Reviewer 2 Notes: