

## 2026-2027 Undergraduate Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Program

OFFICE OF  
STUDENT  
RESEARCH  
&  
CREATIVE  
ACTIVITY



### Call for Proposals

#### Background and Purpose

Undergraduate Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Program grants are designed to support research projects and creative activity carried out by undergraduate students. Projects must provide students with a meaningful research or creative experience, with the student initiating the project and assuming the principal role and the faculty or instructional academic staff member serving as a mentor. The student must write the proposal, using the advice and technical expertise of the mentor as a guide.

Note: The term “research” is used to encompass all forms of scholarly and creative activity in all academic disciplines across the university.

#### Special Considerations for the 2026-27 Application Cycle

While proposals from all fields of study and creative endeavor on all subjects will be given full consideration, this year, in light of current issues facing higher education, we hope to fund up to two projects in each of the following two areas of emphasis:

- 1) Artificial Intelligence (i.e., projects that make AI a significant focus of research or significantly employ AI as part of their methodology)
- 2) Regional Impact (i.e., projects that address an issue of particular relevance to the Fox Valley and/or the wider region served by UW Oshkosh)

#### Award Information

The program consists of both Summer and Academic Year research grants.

The **Summer Research Grant** provides a \$3,500 scholarship to the student and up to \$500 for supplies and expenses for full-time research (40 hours/week) during the eight-week summer term. The scholarship is intended to support students so that they are relieved of the need to seek outside employment and are thereby able to devote their time and energy toward research and creative activity. It will be paid in two \$1,750 installments after the submission of acceptable interim and final reports. The project period may be extended beyond the summer if additional time is required to complete the project, but no additional financial support will be granted beyond the initial award amount. The maximum period for extension is one semester.

The **Academic Year Research Grant** provides a \$3,500 scholarship to the student and up to \$500 for supplies and expenses for research beginning no later than September 15 and ending no earlier than the following May 15. The student is expected to work an average of at least 10 hours per week on the research project. The scholarship will be paid in three \$1166 installments after the submission of acceptable interim and final reports.

For both grants, faculty mentors will receive a \$750 stipend (pending budget approval) after the student submits an acceptable final report. If there is more than one faculty mentor on a project, the stipend might be evenly split among them. As of this year, faculty may choose to reallocate their full stipend to supplies and expenses for the collaborative project.

#### Eligibility Information

Students must be in good academic standing and must be pursuing their first baccalaureate

degree. Students applying for the Summer Collaborative Research Grant must be enrolled for at least six undergraduate credits for the following fall semester. Students applying for the Academic Year Research Grant must be enrolled for at least six undergraduate credits during each of the Fall and Spring semesters.

#### Application Deadline

The deadline for all Collaborative Research Grant applications is February 28, 2026.

#### Mentor Letter of Support

Faculty mentors are required to submit (before the application deadline) a one-page statement that does the following: 1) states their willingness to serve as a mentor, 2) attests that the student initiated the project and authored the research proposal, 3) assesses the student's ability to carry out the project, 4) discusses their ability to mentor the project, and 5) describes what they will be doing to support this research project.

#### Application Prompts and Evaluation Criteria

In order to assist in the preparation of grant proposals, here are the most important prompts contained in the online application, which correspond to the criteria by which proposals will be evaluated.

**Project abstract.** The abstract must be 250 words or less. Bearing in mind that proposals may be evaluated by faculty outside of your discipline, the abstract should begin with a topic sentence stating the project's major thesis. The abstract should include, if pertinent to the project being described, the following items: 1) the primary objectives and the scope of the project, 2) a summary of the project's relation to previous research and scholarship, and 3) a brief description of the research techniques or approaches the project will deploy. (Abstracts do not usually contain citations unless the cited work is the subject of the project.)

**Project keywords.** The student should provide a list of three to five keywords (or short phrases) that encapsulate the project's areas of focus.

**Description of the research/creative methodology.** The student should clearly explain the project's research design (e.g., the hypotheses to be tested, questions to be explored, or creative activity to be undertaken) and the processes that will be used to perform the tests, develop the analysis, or produce the creative work.

**Research Impact.** The student should clearly explain, for a non-specialist audience, what is at stake in their project – i.e., they should explain why their project matters, answering the question “So what?” – as well as how the project is grounded in the theory and/or literature of the discipline, and the significance/importance/contribution of the project to the discipline.

**Description of the student-faculty collaboration.** The student should explain the nature of the collaboration underwriting this collaborative research proposal. This explanation should also spell out the distinct roles of the student and the mentor(s) in the project and indicate the degree to which the mentor's research or creative work shape or influence the student's.

**Description of how the research is linked to and furthers the student's educational experience.** The student should describe how the proposed research or creative project ties into their scholarly/creative interests and/or projected career path.

**Timeline for project.** The student should spell out the timeline over which the project will be

carried out, including an estimate of how long each step will take.

**Description of the expected outcomes from this project.** The student should specify the project's expected outcomes (e.g., papers, artistic or creative works, models, proposals for extramural funding, demonstrations, exhibitions and manuals). Outcomes should be appropriate to the project and the discipline and be achievable in relation to the project's scope and the student's capabilities. *Please note: at a minimum the student is expected to present the results of this work at the UW Oshkosh Celebration of Scholarship and Creative Activity (COSCA) event during the Spring semester of the next academic year OR participate in the on-campus WISys Quick Pitch competition, which takes place during COSCA.*

**Budget and Justification.** If applicable, please provide a detailed supplies and expenses budget, including an explanation of how each expense is necessary to the project's completion.

#### Double-blind Review Process and Narrative Voice

Research proposals must not contain any information that might identify either the student or the supervising faculty mentor. Likewise, anonymous faculty reviewers will assume that the proposal is written by the student and that, therefore, any first-person references ("I" and "we") will reflect this fact. Because the student is authoring the proposal, the student should avoid referring to themselves as "the student."

#### IBC/IRB/IACUC Requirements

Activities that utilize biological infectious agents, toxins of biological origin, human or nonhuman primate products (i.e., cell lines, tissue, blood), and recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules must obtain the approval of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) before a project is funded. Research involving human subject must be reviewed and approved by the university's Institutional Review Board (IRB) before it is funded. If your research will involve the use of vertebrate animals, you must submit a protocol application to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Information and forms relevant to all of these approvals are available at <https://www.uwosh.edu/sponsoredprograms/research-compliance/>.

#### Reporting Requirements

Reporting due dates will be specified in grant award letters.

- Summer Research Grants: One interim report and a final report are required.
- Academic Year Research Grants: Two interim reports and a final report are required.

Each report should not exceed one page, should avoid technical language and should address the following points:

1. activities and accomplishments to date;
2. problems encountered (if any);
3. activities to be completed by the next report date (except for final report);
4. significance of the project outcomes to date.

The Office of Student Research and Creative Activity will follow up with each student and mentor to identify project outcomes and successes.

#### Questions and Assistance

The Office of Student Research and Creative Activity is happy to provide students and their research mentors with advice on how best to prepare proposals for research and creative work. Contact us at [osrca@uwosh.edu](mailto:osrca@uwosh.edu).