

Undergraduate Research Grants in the Department of Biological Sciences

Who's eligible:

Any undergraduate student with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher who is doing or planning to do research with a faculty/staff member of the Department of Biological Sciences may submit a research grant proposal.

What's available:

5 research grants at up to \$1,500 each.

What's required:

Letter of support from a faculty/staff member indicating their willingness to mentor the undergraduate student in a research laboratory. (This letter should also address the extent to which the student has participated in the writing of the research proposal.)

Written proposal (appx 6-8 pgs) containing:

Hypothesis

Introduction & rationale for project

Methods & scientific approach

Expected results

Anticipated difficulties & their possible resolution

Bibliography

Budget (\$1,500 maximum)

Appropriate expenditures include but are not restricted to: research supplies & services, salary, travel expenses, costs associated with attendance at a scientific conference, final poster presentation costs (see below), etc.

(The faculty/staff mentor will assist the student in preparing the written proposal.)

Deadline:

Written proposal and mentor's letter of support are due in the Biological Sciences office by 17 November 2006.

Evaluation criteria:

Evaluations will be based on student effort in proposal preparation (evaluated based on mentor's letter of recommendation), the likelihood that the grant will be of benefit to student, originality of the proposal, and the likelihood of scientific success. Based on these criteria, the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee will recommend proposals to be funded to the Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, Dr. Cloud.

Notification and activation of successful proposals:

Dr. Cloud will notify writers of proposals of the outcome of their grant reviews during the 2nd week of spring semester. Successful grants will be activated at that time and the funds may be used over the following 15 months. Any remaining funds not used during that period will be returned to the Department of Biological Sciences.

Final summary:

By 15 months after activation of research funds (that is, by the end of the appropriate spring semester), a 3' X 4' poster will be due. This poster should summarize the rationale, methods, results and conclusions from the study. These posters will be placed on display in the Life Sciences Building.

For more information:

Contact any faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences.