

## Introduction

Since 1982, the College of ACES has supported the ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program to provide research opportunities for upper-level undergraduate students who demonstrate superior academic ability and a strong interest in the agricultural, consumer, and environmental sciences.

## Program Objectives

The ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program is designed to develop and foster student interest in scholarly research in a broad range of biological, physical, and social science disciplines related to solving problems in the food, agricultural, consumer, and environmental sciences. Eligible students enrolled in the College of ACES are invited to apply for support of original research projects.

Students conduct ACES Undergraduate Research projects under faculty guidance comparable to that which is given to graduate students. This is your opportunity to explore the rapidly expanding frontiers of science and technology, meet major new intellectual challenges, and contribute to scientific knowledge.



*Animal Sciences Laboratory*

## Eligibility

You are eligible for the ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program if you meet the following general requirements:

- Have at least **50** credit hours completed) in an undergraduate degree program by the time that the project will be conducted.
- Be officially enrolled with a declared academic major in the College of ACES.
- Have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of **3.00** or higher.

- The ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship is awarded to ACES James Scholars as a means to fulfill the research component of their Honors Completion Plans. However, enrollment in the ACES James Scholar Honors Program is **not** required to participate in the ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program.

## Application

All proposals for projects beginning during the summer or fall terms must be submitted no later than **the third Monday in April** each year. Proposals for projects beginning in the spring term must be submitted by **the third Monday in November** of the preceding year.

**You are urged to identify and define an appropriate research project well in advance of application.** Application forms and additional information are available from this URL:

[http://students.aces.uiuc.edu/research\\_programs](http://students.aces.uiuc.edu/research_programs)

## Preparing the Research Proposal

Project proposals should follow the format shown on the application form and are limited to two pages plus a title page and budget page. The signatures of your research advisor, your academic advisor, and the head of the department in which the research will be conducted must appear on the completed application form.

The project budget should itemize all funds necessary to support the proposed research. Allowable expenses include laboratory supplies (e.g., chemicals, glassware, lab animals, and plant materials), other disposable supplies, and off-campus travel necessary to collect data. **Funds will not be provided for labor or major equipment.** Any budget items that are not self-explanatory should be justified in footnotes.

## Financial Support

Approved projects are funded up to \$1000, based on a project budget submitted with the application. Students with approved projects are also awarded a \$400 merit scholarship for the academic term during which the project is conducted.

## Academic Credit

With the support of your research advisor, you may receive academic credit (typically 1-3 hours) by

registering for a “Research or Thesis” course (either the **295** or **396** course in your department). Standard registration procedures must be observed, and the final grade will be assigned by your research advisor when all project requirements have been met.

## Presentation of Research Findings

For ACES James Scholars, research findings must be presented in a poster display at the annual ExplorACES student expo in March. **All** ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship recipients must also provide an abstract (at least 2-3 pages) of their research, submitted at the completion of the project to the Honors Dean in 104 Mumford Hall, so that committed research funds can be expended. The abstract will be considered for publication in *Abstracta Bentleyana (Bentleyan Abstracts)*, the College of ACES’ online undergraduate research journal, which is published annually. The journal is named after Dr. Orville Bentley, a pioneering proponent of undergraduate research at the University of Illinois.



*Dr. Orville Bentley (1918-2004)  
Dean of the UI College of Agriculture (1965-1982)*

## Supplemental Funding

If you write a technical paper or prepare a research poster that has been accepted, and if you plan to present your results at a professional meeting, then you may apply for up to \$200 to help defray travel expenses.

Projects that lead to publication of full-length papers in peer-reviewed journals may qualify for up to \$200 toward publication expenses. To qualify, the

published paper must list you as an author or contributor and acknowledge support of the ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program.

Requests for supplemental funding should be made by letter to the Honors Dean and should provide documentary evidence that an appropriate research paper or poster has been scheduled for presentation and/or accepted for publication. **All requests for travel funds must be submitted at least thirty days before the relevant professional meetings.**



*Institute for Genomic Biology*

### Challenging Tomorrow's Scientists

Our resource systems in the agricultural, consumer, and environmental sciences are complex and rapidly changing. Advances in information technology and biotechnology serve to underline the profound importance of today's agricultural sciences to society. Scientists are using modern tools to improve the production and utilization of food, fiber, fuels, chemical feedstocks, and other commodities while preserving our fragile environment and depletable natural resources.

Tomorrow's scientists will be at the forefront of scientific investigation, exploring even more sophisticated means of producing high-quality products, maximizing the use of our resources, and enhancing the quality of our daily lives. Many professionally trained graduates of the College of ACES will fill these critical roles. The ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program introduces highly qualified students to the fascinating and challenging world of research through firsthand experience. By providing opportunities for student researchers to investigate important scientific problems and present new knowledge, we seek to increase their professional competency and help them to prepare for even

greater challenges in the global civilization that is their future.

*This leads to the further reflection that no other human occupation opens so wide a field for the profitable and agreeable combination of labor with cultivated thought as agriculture. I know of nothing so pleasant to the mind as the discovery of anything which is at once new and valuable -- nothing which so lightens and sweetens toil as the hopeful pursuit of such discovery. And how vast and how varied a field is agriculture for such discovery! The mind, already trained to thought in the country school or higher school, cannot fail to find there an exhaustless source of profitable enjoyment.*

**-- Abraham Lincoln's "Address to the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society" (September 30, 1859)**



*Mumford Hall*

### For More Information

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## IN QUEST OF EXCELLENCE

### The ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program



### Cultivating the Future since 1982

