

The ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program

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.

Eligibility

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

- Attain junior or senior standing in an ACES undergraduate degree program by the time that the project will be conducted.
- 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.illinois.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 a 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.

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 **\$500** 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.

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, so that committed research funds can be expended.

Supplemental Funding

You may receive additional support for the following. Please contact the Honors Dean for details.

- Up to **\$200** in travel expenses to present your work at a conference
- Up to **\$300** for publication costs in a scientific journal.

Challenging Tomorrow's Students

The ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program introduces highly qualified students to the fascinating 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 their future. This is an excellent program for future graduate students or undergraduates looking to increase their understanding of research and vocational marketability after graduation.

For More Information

Dr. Bill Simmons, Honors Dean
ACES Academic Programs
1301 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 333-3380
fsimmons@illinois.edu

