

Undergraduate Research Program Awards 2020*

South Dakota State University

This announcement outlines the application process for selected summer undergraduate research programs at South Dakota State University. **All required materials must be submitted electronically in a single PDF or Word file to the Fishback Honors College no later than 5 p.m. on March 1, 2020 with the title: (FIRST INITIAL, LAST NAME, Undergraduate Research 2019).** Notification of the awards will be made by April 2, 2020.

This application will make students eligible for research support from a variety of different funding sources, including the Joseph F. Nelson mentorship and the Honors College Undergraduate Research. Proposals will be matched according to fit with the criteria associated with the various funding sources. Note that while research awards will be made from several different sources through this application, this is not a universal undergraduate research application; i.e. many departments, colleges and programs manage their own undergraduate research programs. Interested students are encouraged to pursue all available research opportunities. These include the Griffith Undergraduate Research Program through the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences, Daschle Scholars Program through the College of Arts and Sciences, the GISCE Scholars Program, and the Tanaka and Twila Okken Awards through the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Awards will be competitive and based on the design of the proposed studies, quality of the application, and potential for project success. Applications must be submitted electronically to Sandra.newman@sdstate.edu by 5:00 p.m. on March 1, 2020.

Please review the attached guidelines carefully.

**Note: This call for proposals was formerly distributed under the title of the Joseph F. Nelson Mentorship Program. In its current form, the common application materials submitted herein make students eligible for support from the Joseph F. Nelson Mentorship Program in addition to several others funding sources.*

Undergraduate Research Program Application South Dakota State University

Guidelines for the Awards

General Considerations

1. The award will be paid to the student for his/her use during the mentorship program. These funds are to allow students an opportunity to dedicate themselves to intense scholarly activity during the mentorship period. The funds will support the student while engaged in original scholarly activity under the direction of a faculty mentor.

Joseph F. Nelson applications must be focused on physics, pharmacy, chemistry, physical geography, biological sciences, engineering or mathematics.

Honors Undergraduate Research proposals are awarded to Honors College students regardless of academic major. Scholarly proposals from all disciplines are encouraged and will be awarded based on suitability to available funding sources. Students must meet Honors College progression standards.

2. The mentorships will be conducted as summer programs to be completed during the summer following the granting of the award to the greatest extent possible. Continued research during the academic year is encouraged.
3. Awards will be paid half at the execution of the project and half after notification of successful completion of the project by the supervising faculty mentor, and submission of a summary report by the student preferably by the end of the summer term. Extensions may be considered at the request of the student, with a final deadline of October 31st.
4. A faculty mentor will be identified and will make a commitment to the support of the scholarly project.
5. An undergraduate student can receive only one Joseph F. Nelson Mentorship Award while at South Dakota State University. Students may earn more than one undergraduate research award from the Fishback Honors College.
6. Students entering the sophomore and junior years of their program are strongly encouraged to apply. Students entering the senior year can also apply. Students accepted into graduate or professional schools for the Fall of 2018 are not eligible for the mentorship (this includes students entering the 5th or 6th year/s of the Pharm D. program).
7. Faculty are encouraged to establish ongoing mentoring relationships with students and to assist program participants in preparing their work for public scholarly presentation and publication.

8. Recipients are required to present at SDSU's URSCAD, 2020, and are to submit articles based on their research to SDSU's *Journal of Undergraduate Research*.
9. Recipients will enroll for at least one semester credit (undergraduate research, undergraduate problem, undergraduate internship, independent study) during the period of the award. The mentor and student are encouraged to arrange credit in the student's area of study whenever practical. Students in the Honors College should consider using the project to fulfill a portion of their requirements to graduate with Fishback Honors College distinction.

Failure to register for academic credit may result in termination of program funding.

10. The student must have a B average (3.0 or greater) and be of good moral character and must not use drugs or be a habitual user of tobacco or alcoholic beverages to be eligible for the Joseph F. Nelson program. Fishback Honors College students are eligible for funding if they meet Honors progression standards and have a Continuing Enrollment Form on file with the College.

The Award

1. An award of up to \$2,500 will be awarded to each student chosen by the committee. The award will be paid in two installments, at the beginning and conclusion of the mentorship experience. The mentorship will be generally designed to cover a period of eight to ten weeks of intensive interaction between the mentor and student and can be used however the awardee seems fit in conjunction with their project to include, but not limited to, supplies, travel and personal living expenses.

The Application Process

1. The attached cover page will be completed including a 250 word abstract. The abstract should contain an introduction, objectives, short description of research methods and the impact of the research on the field of study.
2. The student will develop a one-page statement of educational goals and explain the role that the undergraduate research experience will play in achievement of those goals.
3. The student with the assistance of the mentor, will prepare an original 1-2 page proposal (not including the abstract or educational goal statement) of the scholarly activity to be undertaken by the student under the mentorship award. **The student must write the proposal.** Proposals that have content taken directly from their mentor's work will not be favorably reviewed. In the proposal, the hypothesis or goal of the scholarly activity will be clearly stated; the rationale and approaches taken to test the hypothesis or meet the goal will be described; the impact of the information on the student's field of study and educational goals will be explained; and the student's plans to continue his/her scholarly development will be outlined. This should be written so that a layman would understand the project description.
4. The mentor will submit a letter of support including a statement that: 1) agrees to support the execution of the students' research, including time and resources associated with needed equipment,

facilities, supplies, travel, etc.; 2) includes an evaluation of the student's personal involvement in the proposal; 3) includes a statement on the moral character, extracurricular activities, and academic strength of the student and 4) includes an explanation on the validity and impact of the student's proposal on the student's field of study and future goals. The letter should include an evaluation of the student's proposal and their qualifications to successfully execute the proposed project. The mentor may also note any outstanding creativity, academic, work ethic, leadership, and/or character qualities of the student. This letter will be submitted electronically directly from the mentor to: Sandra.newman@sdstate.edu by 5:00 p.m. on **March 1, 2019**. The title document should be titled as follows: Student's First Initial, Student's Last Name, Mentor Support Letter; this same information should be included in the email subject line.

5. The student will provide the committee with an unofficial copy of their academic record and a one-page description of his/her extra-curricular activities as part of their application materials.

Evaluation

1. The Undergraduate Research Program committee will review the applications for the awards using the attached evaluation sheet.

The evaluation of the award applications will be based on the attached rubric. The evaluation rubric used by review committee members is as follows: 1) one page statement of goals (15 points); 2) proposal (50 points); 3) transcripts and extracurricular activities (15 points); 4) mentor's support letter (20 points).

The awardees will be notified by letter and email and the faculty mentor will be copied by April 10, 2017.

2. Public announcement of the research awards will be made at URSCAD, 2019 (April 9, 2019)

Additional Conditions

1. Recipients will promptly submit appropriate paperwork required for payment of their award to the Fishback Honors College by April 15, 2019.
2. Recipients must submit a thank you note addressed to the program sponsor by April 15, 2019.

Students not complying with conditions 1-2 will delay or disqualify themselves from receipt of program funds.

3. Students receiving funding will provide the Fishback Honors College a copy of any abstracts, publications and/or formal reports which result from the scholarly work involved in the mentorship.

4. The students receiving the award will provide the Fishback Honors College with a 500-750 word report of the mentorship experience at the conclusion of their experience to earn the final installment of their award, and no later than the end of the summer term.
5. Students will present a poster on their funded project at Undergraduate Research Scholarship and Creative Activity Day in April, 2020. Recipients should also submit their projects for publications in SDSU's *Journal of Undergraduate Research*.
6. Recipients will attend a series of three workshops with fellow summer undergraduate researchers during June, July and August.

Students not complying with conditions 3-6 will be considered ineligible for further undergraduate research program funding.

Publicity

Applicants must agree to provide personal information as needed for publicity of the award and permit the use of their names, pictures and statements of the significance of the scholarly work for use in said publicity. The applicants must agree that the SDSU Foundation may use information about their mentorship experience in publicity and fund-raising activities.