

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FUNDING
Center for Undergraduate Research in Earth Systems Science
<http://geology.msu.edu/curess.html>

The Center for Undergraduate Research in Earth Systems Science is pleased to announce new undergraduate research funding opportunities for Academic Year 2008-2009 and Summer 2009. Through generous support from the College of Natural Science and Department of Geological Sciences, funding to conduct research with Faculty in the Department of Geological Sciences is now available.

Program Overview and Deadlines

Fall Deadline: October 15, 2008.

Summer Deadline: April 10, 2009.

Proposal contents: Project description, budget, mentor and advisee goals.

Award limits: A maximum of \$15,000 is available for the projects funded under this initiative (\$10,000 for the Fall semester and \$5000 for Summer semester).

Acceptable expenses: Support for research-related expenses, including travel (fieldwork, lab work, and conferences), laboratory and field expenses, equipment and supplies, and stipend.

Style: 11 point Arial, single-spaced, one-inch margins.

Length: Maximum one page for project description, plus an appended Budget Form and Goals and Expectations Form.

Proposal Details

Undergraduate students can apply for funding through submission of a **proposal** and detailed **budget**. In addition, students and mentors must submit a detailed **goals and expectations form**. The application and review process will ensure that a student and faculty mentor have a well-structured plan for a project that can be completed effectively.

- 1) The Project Description should include: overview of problem/question to be addressed, description of proposed activities/methods, relevance to existing research (including brief literature review), anticipated outcomes, and implications of the work to their field.
- 2) The Budget Form (<http://geology.msu.edu/curess.html>) should include detailed description of project needs, including a budget justification.
- 3) The Goals and Expectations Form (<http://geology.msu.edu/curess.html>) is designed to facilitate conversations between mentors and students about project goals and expectations of both parties. This form must be completed and submitted with the proposal.

We strongly encourage students to also consider submitting their proposals to the College of
Natural Science undergraduate research programs:

http://naturalscience.msu.edu/students/undergraduate/enhance_your_experience/undergraduate_research/support.html

Requirements of Funded Projects

- 1) All funded undergraduates must submit a one-page summary describing their accomplishments and reflecting on competencies gained from the experience.
 - a. For students funded for the Academic year (Fall Semester funding), these materials are due on May 1st.
 - b. For students funded for the Summer semester, the due date is December 1st.
- 2) Mentors must provide all abstracts, papers and other research projects resulting from funded projects to the URC.
- 3) All funded undergraduates must complete a post-experience survey. Surveys will be provided in early April for Fall semester awardees and in early November for Summer semester awardees.
- 4) Funded undergraduates are required to present the results of their research projects at the MSU University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum and at a research colloquium in the Department of Geological Sciences, and will be encouraged to present their results at a Regional or National professional meeting.

Program Design

Proposals will be reviewed by the Undergraduate Research Committee (URC) in the Department of Geological Sciences. Interested students should seek a meeting with a potential advisor. The URC will evaluate research proposals and recommend funding levels for individual projects. Please contact the following URC members if you have any questions:

Brian Hampton: bhampton@msu.edu

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Latest update, March 23, 2009