

Simpson College Undergraduate Research and Creativity Grant

Objective

The mission of the Undergraduate Research and Creativity Committee is to develop and promote undergraduate research at Simpson College, with the aim that a thriving culture of faculty-student research, serving students, faculty, and the wider community, be sustainable. Toward this end, the *Undergraduate Research and Creativity Grants* support new and unique projects that further this goal, with emphasis on supporting the academic diversity and interdisciplinary indicative of a liberal arts education. It is inclusive of all academic departments within the college. The grants are intended to fund projects involving a wide variety of students, irrespective of their academic standing. ***Applications that include students from underprivileged and/or underrepresented backgrounds are highly encouraged.***

Criteria

Projects funded by this grant must fulfill all the following criteria:

- Have a research or creativity component
- Include Simpson students as researchers
- Have a faculty sponsor(s) advising/coordinating the research*
- Produce a final report, which may be in the form of a poster, presentation, write-up, artistic display, or performance
- Fund faculty participating in undergraduate research projects for which they are not already being compensated. Projects within the course load of the faculty cannot be funded
- Projects that are part of the student's major requirement coursework cannot be funded.
- Students must sign up for at least 1 credit independent research course work. These credits should not be substituted as a course requirement for a major or minor.
- Must be presented at the Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium
- Receive IRB approval with human participant research; or provide a justification for why IRB approval has not yet happened (i.e., need money for supplies prior to collecting the data) or is unnecessary

* **Note:** Faculty mentors who are the project's principal investigators may be from different departments.

Grant Awards

For projects beginning within the 2025-2026 academic year and onward, the following deadlines will be instituted:

- **April 1st for projects starting in the Fall of the next academic year. For example, applications for projects beginning in Fall 2025 will be due April 1st, 2025.**
- **November 1st for projects starting in the Spring of the same academic year.**

Grant applications must be submitted by Simpson College faculty members, although external faculty can be involved as research mentors. Proposals may include up to \$1500 to fund the research process (e.g., photocopying, mailing expenses, supplies, travel to and from the research site, equipment, computer software, and travel to libraries). Proposals may also include non-consumable equipment and software purchases, and these costs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Grant proposals may also include a \$500 stipend for each student, a faculty stipend (\$500 per student for the first three students and \$300 for the fourth and fifth students).

Faculty members may choose to waive their stipend in order to allocate funds toward research-related equipment, materials, or other project necessities. However, student stipends may not be waived or redirected; students must receive their awarded stipend in full.

Researchers should submit a separate Student Travel Grant application to fund travel to present research at a conference. The Undergraduate Research & Creativity Committee will review all proposals in the order in which they are submitted.

Application Requirements

Each grant proposal should contain the following:

- Name, phone number, and email address of faculty sponsor(s)
- IRB approval number or justification for why it is not included
- Description of the Simpson student(s)' role in the study and how many hours (on average) you anticipate the student spending on the project per week. Please list the number of students participating in the project. You may include their names as well. Please indicate whether the project involves students from underprivileged or underrepresented backgrounds.
- Description of the faculty member(s)' role in the study and how many hours (on average) you anticipate spending on the project per week.
- The proposal must be written by the principal investigating faculty member(s) or co-authored with a student. The proposal cannot be written solely by a student.
- **A project narrative that includes:**
 1. Title of the Project
 2. Overall goal of the study
 3. Hypothesis of the research project (if applicable)

4. Rationale of the project
5. Background information, which includes significance of the work
6. Methodology
7. Expected findings
8. Project Timeline
9. A project budget with clear itemization. Faculty and student stipend details should also be clearly listed. This will allow us to estimate how much money goes toward stipends. Also, please note that the costs for a project must be incurred during one Simpson College fiscal year
10. Budget rationale for each line item in the budget that clearly connects expenses to the research process
11. Disclosure of other funding sources for the project
12. Disclosure of how the project is related to faculty course load
13. A description of the final research product
A description of how the project results will be communicated to others (paper, poster, painting, performance, etc.)

* Please note that meeting the above criteria and application requirements doesn't automatically ensure funding for the project. Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In certain cases, the committee may also ask for more information regarding the project before making a final decision.

Please submit grant proposals electronically to the Director of Undergraduate Research (undergradresearch@simpson.edu).