

College of Agriculture

Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Academic Year 2013/14

GOAL

The goal is to foster participation of undergraduate students in research.

AVAILABLE FELLOWSHIPS

Year-long undergraduate fellowships for research with College of Agriculture faculty are available to College of Agriculture students and Biosystems Engineering and Environmental Science majors. Each fellowship begins in the summer and extends through to the end of the spring semester. Renewal for a second year is possible.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP GUIDELINES

1. Student Requirements: Students must have at least sophomore standing by the time they begin the program. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 overall is required to apply. In order to maintain the fellowship, a semester grade point average of 3.0 or better must be maintained.
2. Fellowship Period: The year-long fellowships will begin summer semester, 2013 and extend through spring semester 2014. Students must have time to complete one year of the program before graduation.
3. Time Commitment for Fellowship: Typically, during a semester when taking a full load, the amount of time performing research should be equivalent to that spent for an intensive experiential learning practicum or a 3 semester course that has 6 hours of laboratory (about 10 hours per week). During the summer, the student will take no classes and will devote his/her full energies to the research.
4. Application Requirements:
 - a. The student must complete an online application form, which requires a 1000 word statement on his/her research problem and presents a general research plan. The research plan should be discussed with the student's mentor.
 - b. Two letters of recommendation are required, one of which should be provided by the student's research mentor. Students are required to identify a mentor prior to submitting their application. The mentor is required to complete an online application as well. The letters of recommendation are to be sent directly from the referee to undgres@auburn.edu with the applicant's last name in the subject field.
5. Application Submission: Applications are due by February 5, 2013. The application should be completed online at the Office of Undergraduate Research site:
http://auburn.edu/undgres/Fellowship/forms_and_checklist.html
Students who wish to be considered for the College of Agriculture or University Undergraduate Research Fellowship program only need to complete this one application. Announcements of awards will be made by early April.
6. Review Committee: The review committee will be composed of the College of Agriculture Associate Dean for Research, Associate Dean for Instruction, and the Director for Undergraduate Research in the Office of the Vice President of Research. The committee will be chaired by the Associate Dean for Research. This is a competitive review process and only select proposals will be funded. Decisions on awards will be based on the scientific and educational merits of the proposal.
7. Reporting Requirements:
 - a. Fellowship students are required to provide a progress reports at the end of their summer and fall terms.

- b. Fellowship students are required to give a presentation during the spring semester of their fellowship at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Forum.
 - c. A final written report/paper or the submission of a copy of the abstract is expected. The college encourages publication of undergraduate research papers in professional journals and in the Auburn University Journal for Undergraduate Scholarship, and when achieved, the undergraduate students and mentor will be recognized.
8. Fellowship Support: The year-long fellowship will be funded at a level of \$5,800. A total of \$4,400 is offered to students as a scholarship; \$2,000 will be awarded during the summer; \$1,200 is awarded each academic term (fall and spring), upon successful progress and completion of reporting requirements. The research mentor will receive \$1,400 to support the student's research activities.
 9. Renewal of Fellowships: A second-year fellowship is possible when the student is making substantive progress towards the development of research outcomes that merits submission as an article for consideration in a peer-reviewed journal. The student must reapply for the fellowship.
 10. Mentor Commitment: The College encourages faculty members to make a commitment to undergraduate research. This commitment requires faculty members to work one-on-one with students and to teach students how to perform research. A faculty member who agrees to serve as mentors should be prepared to invest a reasonable amount of time in advising his or her mentee and provide research space, equipment, materials, and supplies required for the research. This may require about three hours per week during the summer and two hours per week during the academic year. Designation of a post-doctoral research associate or graduate assistant to assist in mentoring the undergraduate fellow is advised.