Honors Research Grants

Application Deadline: Mon, 03/27/2017

APPLICATIONS DUE:
STUDENTS: MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017 11:59 P.M.
FACULTY: SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017 11:59 P.M.

Honors Research Grants support a student’s own research project or creative work, under the guidance of a Faculty Sponsor. The program is designed to give students experience with the process of writing a grant proposal, and disseminating their work by applying to present (including submission of an abstract) and presenting at the annual Massachusetts statewide Undergraduate Research Conference.

AWARD

Grants may be approved for up to $1,000. Awarded funds will be transferred to the department of the student’s Faculty Sponsor. Grant funds are for direct costs only, for materials and activities directly related to the student’s project, and may not be used as a stipend or wage. Any equipment purchased with grant funds is the property of the University of Massachusetts and must remain on campus for use by other students in the Faculty Sponsor’s department.

ELIGIBILITY

Student applicants must be Commonwealth Honors College students in good academic standing (i.e., minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4), and must be juniors or seniors proposing to use the grant in connection with an honors thesis, honors project or honors independent study. Students from any academic discipline are encouraged to apply. Recipients must present their findings/progress at the annual Massachusetts statewide Undergraduate Research Conference (www.honors.umass.edu/undergraduate-research-conference).

Applications must be jointly submitted by students and their Faculty Sponsors. TAs and Grad students may not serve as Faculty Sponsors.

CRITERIA

The application process is two-part, requiring both the student applicant and the Faculty Sponsor to submit materials. Applications must be submitted using CHC PATHS. The student must initiate the application. The student’s application must be accompanied by a grant proposal; proposal requirements are outlined below. The Faculty Sponsor must review and comment on the student’s proposal before the student uploads the document. Since applications and proposals may not be revised online, students and their Faculty Sponsors must communicate regarding revisions
before students submit their proposals. The Faculty Sponsor must upload a letter of endorsement and their CV, combined into a single document.

Checklist available at https://www.honors.umass.edu/research/grantschecklist

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Student applicants must upload a typed, single-spaced 6-page proposal that is formatted as a PDF document with the following sections (see section page limits below):

- **Background and Significance** - Provide an introduction that lays the framework for the research and describes why it is important and creates new knowledge. Use scholarly references to briefly review the research that has led to this study. (2-page limit)
- **Objective** - Exactly what are you going to do? This should be one or two sentences using action verbs like “develop, demonstrate, test, etc.” Also include a hypothesis, if appropriate. (1/2 page)
- **Methodology** - How will you accomplish the goals stated above? Include how you will collect data and analyze the data. What steps will you follow to carry out the project? Be clear about how you will be trained to accomplish the study and where the study will be carried out. Provide information to document that you have the experience to complete the project and that the necessary space and equipment is available to you. Be sure to provide sufficient details about the research environment that will demonstrate that the work is feasible. (2 pages)
- **Budget** - What is your proposed budget? Provide itemized breakdown, total of estimated cost, specify grant request - not to exceed $1,000 - and show other funding sources if applicable. Additional narrative justification may be provided if not explicit in Methodology. (1/2 page)
- **References** - All references used in the proposal should be cited. Check with your Faculty Sponsor to use the citation format appropriate for your field of study.

THE ONLINE APPLICATION SYSTEM IS OPEN. Log into CHC PATHS. Students may begin preparing their proposals off-line following the proposal requirements provided above.

Please note: Application information may be used for a press release.

DEADLINES

Online applications are accepted the last week of March for disbursement during the following fall, and in early October for disbursement during the spring.

The March deadline is for juniors applying for fall semester (when the students will be seniors). The October deadline is for juniors and seniors applying for spring semester.

The **Faculty Sponsor deadline** is four to five days after the student application deadline. Faculty Sponsors must submit their supporting documents online to complete the application. Applications without the Faculty Sponsor's supporting documents cannot be considered for funding.
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Students must be in good academic standing (minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4) and an active member of Commonwealth Honors College.

See checklist - https://www.honors.umass.edu/research/grantschecklist.

Log into CHC PATHS.