

The ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program



Spearheading Innovation and Discovery Since 1982

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
University of Illinois



← The Great Seal of the University of Illinois appears at the base of the McFarland Memorial Bell Tower on the ACES Quadrangle.

Introductory Overview

Eligible students enrolled in the College of ACES are invited to apply for financial support of their original research projects through the ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program, which is designed to develop and foster student interest in research aimed at solving problems in the agricultural, consumer, and environmental sciences.

Through the ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program, you can investigate important scientific problems, generate new knowledge, increase your professional competency, and prepare yourself for even greater challenges in your future career. You can conduct your research project under faculty guidance comparable to that which is given to graduate students. This is an excellent opportunity for you to explore the rapidly expanding frontiers of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) research, meet major new intellectual challenges, and contribute to the development of new scientific knowledge.

You are eligible to apply for the ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program, which includes a research scholarship, a travel award, and a publication supplement award, if you meet the following general criteria:

- You are officially enrolled as a full-time student at the University of Illinois with a declared academic major in the College of ACES.
- Your GPA for your two most recent semesters is ≥ 3.00 .
- You will have attained sophomore, junior, or senior standing in your undergraduate degree program by the time that you start conducting the research project.

Approved research projects can be funded up to \$1,500, based on a project budget submitted with the proposal form. (Please see below for details.) In addition, **students with approved projects are**

also awarded a \$500 merit scholarship for the academic term during which the project is begun. The applications for the travel award and the publication supplement award need to be submitted separately.

At the conclusion of your project, you will need to provide an abstract of your research findings (usually 2-3 pages in length) to the Honors Dean so that committed research funds can be expended.

Application Process

Proposals for Undergraduate Research projects are accepted and reviewed throughout the calendar year on a rolling basis. You are strongly encouraged to identify and define a research project well in advance of your anticipated starting date. Application forms and additional information are available at <http://academics.aces.illinois.edu/honors/research-scholarship-program>.

Preparing the Proposal Form

Project proposals should follow the format shown on the application form and are limited to 2-3 pages plus a title page. **An itemized budget, along with a signed note (or printed-out email message) from your Faculty Research Mentor, affirming the originality and appropriateness of your research project, should also be attached to your application.** The signatures of your Faculty Research Mentor and your academic advisor (or the Honors Advisor in your department) need to appear on the completed application form. (The Honors Dean will sign the form after it has been reviewed and approved.)

The project budget should itemize all funds necessary to support the proposed research. Allowable expenses include laboratory supplies, other disposable supplies, and off-campus travel necessary to collect data. **Funds may not be used for wages or major equipment purchases.**

How to Get Started

To get started on a research project, you will need an original idea, a helpful professor, and a sound proposal. There are a number of ways to take the first step on your pathway to discovery.

- Talk to your academic advisor, and ask about faculty researchers in your home department.
- Go to your departmental homepage or the College of ACES website, and look for faculty profiles. Often there is a listing of professors by "research interest." Write an email message to a professor, and see if you can meet to discuss options.
- Talk with other students in your major. Ask them what kinds of research projects they did and how they got started.
- Consult with the Honors Advisor in your home department. This faculty member can help you identify potential Faculty Research Mentors based on your and their particular fields of interest.

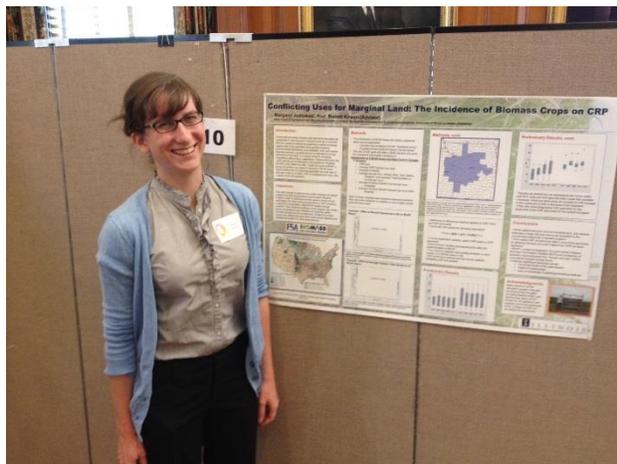
Note: When meeting with faculty members, always make sure that you have taken the time to look into what they do so that you will be able to explain your thoughts and ideas clearly and concisely.

Directory of Departmental Honors Advisors for the Current Academic Year

Professor	Email Address	Advising Students in These Majors:
Dr. Jonathan Beever	jbeever@illinois.edu	Animal Sciences
Anne Marie Boone, M.S.	aboone@illinois.edu	Agricultural and Biological Engineering (Including Technical Systems Management)
Dr. Bryan Endres	bendres@illinois.edu	Agricultural and Consumer Economics
Dr. Jennifer Hardesty	hardesty@illinois.edu	Human Development and Family Studies
Dr. Yuan-Xiang Pan	yxpan@illinois.edu	Food Science and Human Nutrition
Dr. Lulu Rodriguez	lulurod@illinois.edu	Agricultural Communications
Dr. Cory Suski	suski@illinois.edu	Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences
Dr. Erica Thieman	thieman@illinois.edu	Agricultural Leadership and Science Education
Dr. Patrick Tranel	tranel@illinois.edu	Crop Sciences (Including Horticulture)

Academic Credit

With your Faculty Research Mentor's consent, you may receive academic credit (usually one to four credit hours) by registering for a "Research or Thesis" course (usually listed among the **290s** or **390s** courses in your Faculty Research Mentor's department). As a general rule, **396** courses are reserved for use by ACES James Scholars and Chancellor's Scholars, and **295** courses should be used by all other ACES Undergraduate Researchers. (In the Department of Animal Sciences, **ANSC 398** may be used by any and all students.) The final course grade will be assigned by your Faculty Research Mentor after all project requirements have been met.



← ACES James Scholar alumna Margaret Jodlowski (B.S. in ACE, Class of 2012; M.S. in ACE, 2014) presents her research poster at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Illini Union.

Presentation of Your Research Findings

All Undergraduate Researchers are encouraged (and ACES James Scholars are required) to present their research findings as a poster display at ACES Undergraduate Research Day in mid-April, the Undergraduate Research Symposium in late April, or a professional scientific meeting approved in advance by the Honors Dean. Additional information about research poster presentations is available from:

- **Undergraduate Research Symposium:** <https://undergradresearch.illinois.edu/researchweek.html>

Publication in the *I-ACES (Inquiry-ACES)* Journal for Undergraduate Researchers

Founded in 2014, *I-ACES (Inquiry-ACES)* is a premier undergraduate research journal established by the ACES Academy of Teaching Excellence. Its mission is to advance undergraduate research through publishing the results of our students' innovative projects. To learn how to submit manuscripts for consideration to *I-ACES*, please visit <https://ugresearchjournals.illinois.edu/index.php/iaces/index>.

Travel Award and Publication Supplement Award

If you write a paper or prepare a poster (based on your undergraduate research project) that you have been invited to present at a professional meeting, then you may apply for a travel award of up to **\$800** to help defray your travel expenses.

Projects that lead to publication of papers in peer-reviewed journals may qualify for up to **\$500** toward publication expenses. To qualify, the published paper needs to list you as an author or contributor and acknowledge the support of the ACES Undergraduate Research Scholarship Program.

Requests for supplemental funding should be made by letter (or email) to the Honors Dean. You will need to provide documentary evidence that an appropriate research paper or poster has been scheduled for presentation and/or accepted for publication. **All travel award application should be submitted at least thirty (30) days before the professional meeting takes place.**

Orville G. Bentley Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Research

You are encouraged to enter the Orville G. Bentley Awards competition, which takes place during the spring semester to recognize the best poster displays presented at the ACES Undergraduate Research Day in mid-April. You should prepare your own poster under the guidance of your Faculty Research Mentor and follow the general requirements for research posters in your area of study. The poster should contain a summary of your research project, including the subject of your inquiry, how the research was conducted, what results were produced, interpretations of those results, and a summarizing conclusion. Tables and figures may also be included in the poster display. The standard size for ACES Undergraduate Researchers' posters is 28 by 38 inches.

As a general rule, several Orville G. Bentley Awards are presented annually, with each winner receiving a scholarship prize and a certificate of achievement. The winners of the competition are announced at the annual ACES Student Awards Reception in April.



← The Morrow Plots and the
Carl R. Woese Institute for Ge-
nomic Biology (IGB)

Contact Information

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