

Engineering Research Fellowship (ERF)

The Engineering Research Fellowship supports **individual mentored projects** designed and undertaken by **undergraduate students**. Thus, each proposal should be **written by the student** and must be supported by a letter of support for the project and student from the faculty mentor mentoring the project (attach letter to the UR Mentoring Agreement). If the project contributes to the faculty mentor's scholarly activity, the proposal must explain clearly what the student's contributions will be and how those outcomes are distinct from other work in progress.

It is expected that students applying for ERF have worked with the faculty mentor for one to two terms previously and have the necessary skills to embark on a contribution in which they can make decisions under the guidance of the mentor.

General Guidelines

- While written by the student, the proposal ideas should be developed collaboratively with the faculty mentor.
- Proposals are due the semester prior to the work, 2nd Monday in March for Summer, 2nd Monday in April for Fall, and 2nd Monday in November for Spring.
- Maximum budget is \$3,000 per semester or summer. Requests may be made for a smaller amount.
 - **NEW beginning 2023** -- the entire award must be budgeted to stipend.
 - Research expenses are no longer covered.
- Stipends will be paid sometime between week 6 and 8 of a 16-week term and between weeks 3 & 4 of an 8-week term. This is to ensure student is enrolled and progressing on the project. Stipends will be deposited as a scholarship into the student's bursar account, so will be applied to any outstanding balance with excess refunded to the student.
- Students are expected to commit at least 10 hours per week to the research in Fall and Spring and 20 hours per week in Summer. Summer appointments will be for 8-weeks generally aligning with summer academic terms.
- Students should enroll in either XXXX 3440 or a departmental research course. 3440 is letter-graded and will count as an elective in most programs if taken for 3-credit hours; however, it may be taken for 0-credit hours to avoid tuition and fees.
 - Fellowships are not for support of Honors Research so enrollment in 3980 or 3960 is not allowed.
- Students may apply for Engineering Research Fellowship after one supported term by the Entry Apprenticeship; otherwise, **fellowships are limited to one per student**.
- Faculty may have no more than two students supported by the College at a time. All faculty are encouraged to hire undergraduate research assistants with their sponsored project awards.
- Projects from all GCoE disciplines are eligible provided they meet the following definition of undergraduate research:
 - *Mentored intellectual engagement*
 - *Use of established scholarly processes*
 - *Making a meaningful contribution to a project, question, or problem*

- The *outcomes are publicly disseminated or performed with review, critique or judgment*
- And both the process and product are *based upon disciplinary standards*
- Projects might include (but are not limited to):
 - Hypothesis driven experimental research
 - Engineering design projects associated with a research group
 - Research question focused analyses of original or existing data
 - Comparative analysis of literature (a systematic literature review)

Proposal Contents

- ✓ Student and mentor information
- ✓ General description of student's project idea (Maximum 300 words)
- ✓ If the project is part of faculty scholarship, how the student's piece contributes to the bigger goals and how the work is different from other ongoing work (Maximum 150 words)
- ✓ Statement of motivation for the project – rationale and significance of the project **and** how it fits into the student's personal and professional interests or goals (Maximum 250 words)
- ✓ A full, completed Undergraduate Research Mentoring Agreement with expected benchmarks and outcomes
- ✓ Letter of support from faculty member acknowledging commitment to mentor the student in the work and that the faculty member will supply necessary materials and equipment.

Student obligations and opportunities

- Enroll in XXXX 3440 (can be for 0 credit) or departmental undergraduate research course if one exists.
- Devote approximately 10 or 20 hours per week to the project depending on the term
- Present work at an upcoming GCoE Undergraduate Research Showcase
 - Showcase announcements will be sent to Fellowship recipients.
- Students may also present work in other venues.
- Engineering Research Fellowships are not intended to support students doing honors research, nor may they be stacked with other research support opportunities (such as FYRE or HRAP)