

Summer Scholars Program Call for Proposals Summer 2025

The Center for Undergraduate Research & Scholarship (CURS) is pleased to announce a call for proposals for our Summer Scholars Program (SSP) sponsored by the Provost and the Vice Provost for Instruction.

The goals of the program are:

1. To support **high-impact scholarly activity** that yields significant student development and academic achievements while furthering the **research productivity** of Augusta University;
2. To provide **intentional mentoring and professional development** through collaborative research and creative scholarship;
3. To provide undergraduates with **intensive experiential learning** through engagement in research and creative scholarship.

Mentoring

Evidence shows the benefits of faculty mentoring on student success, and thus excellence in the mentoring relationship is a critical component for the SSP. Quality mentorship includes:

- clear communication of expectations and regular discussion of progress, challenges, and accomplishments
- a mutual openness to ideas, opinions, and collaboration
- an allowance of significant student responsibility to further the project's progress
- providing teaching, scaffolding, and guidance and to help students develop and deepen their knowledge and skills

A well-written mentorship philosophy is a requirement for the program. [The Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis \(IUPUI\)](#) has a great resource for developing and writing a mentoring philosophy.

Mentorship involves a committed relationship and is qualitatively different from having a student to accomplish daily research tasks. For student assistants (and not mentees), please consider posting your opportunity on the [Handshake Job Board](#) through the Augusta University [Career Services](#) website.

Because the SSP is about collaboration and mentorship, faculty involvement is critical for a successful student experience. The project mentor must be a full-time AU faculty member or visiting faculty member and be the lead mentor on the project. Research associates, graduate students, residents, or other team members may assist but may not be the primary mentor or contact for the SSP.

Dates

The SSP will run two sessions to accommodate both those who desire a shorter or longer scholarly experience during the summer.

- Session 1 (9 week): May 19 -July 18, 2025
- Session 2 (5 week): May 19 – June 20; and July 17, 2025



Required Events (M = mentors, S = scholars)

- Mentor Orientation (M) Thursday, May 1st 9:00am – 10:30am
- Kickoff and Student Orientation Breakfast (M, S) Monday, May 19th 9:00am – 11:00am
- Professional Development Workshops (M, S) Weekly during the program; Wednesdays 9:00-11:00am
- Summer Scholars Symposium (M, S) Thurs, July 17th 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Because space is limited for this program and spots are competitive, participants are required to attend and participate in all events. Session 2 participants are not required at workshops outside the session but are required to attend the final symposium. Students and faculty wanting to participate in the program need to plan their summer schedule accordingly.

In order to meet team and program objectives, all participants should be local to the Augusta area for the duration of the program and have availability during predictable times (generally 8am-3pm Monday–Friday). Participants therefore may not take/teach more than three credits while in the program. ***Students may not take a course with a lab if participating in the SSP.*** Courses with a lab require a great deal of time and attention and thus are not compatible with the SSP.

Those who have travel plans that are not related to the SSP scholarly activity are encouraged to apply for another year when they have no schedule conflicts. Persons whose travel will prevent attendance at either the Orientation or final Symposium will be less competitive for the program.

Selection Process

1. Faculty applications are due by **January 5 by midnight.**
2. All proposals are reviewed by an interdisciplinary review panel in January.
3. Faculty are notified of decisions and selected projects added to CURS website in late January.
4. Student applications are accepted from February 1 to 14. (Students will be able to review faculty mentor projects on the website and select up to 3 preferred projects.)
5. CURS reviews student applicants for eligibility and sends screened candidates to mentors for interviews.
6. Faculty mentors interview students and make their preferences for students via email to curs@augusta.edu. CURS will make the FINAL decision for mentor/mentee selection and all final selections will go through our office.
7. CURS sends out award/declination letters to students.

Funding

The number of accepted projects will depend on the amount of funding and the expense of the projects proposed. Faculty mentors will receive a stipend of \$1500 per student (maximum of \$4500 depending on available funding). Twelve-month faculty do not qualify for the stipend but are still eligible to submit a proposal and participate in the program. Regardless of stipend, accepted mentors are expected to participate fully in all aspects of the program.

Student scholars will be employed by the university and receive payment for up to 20 hours of research per week (up to \$2700 depending on available funds).



Multiple Funding Sources. Faculty who have been awarded internal or external grants (RSCA, IGP, NSF, NIH, etc.) are eligible for SSP participation provided that the research project supported is the same. If a faculty stipend is covered by the salary or grant, CURS will provide the stipend for the student(s) only. If awarded multiple opportunities, CURS may provide supplemental funding for materials up to \$500. Faculty receiving an internal Educational Innovation Fund (EIF) grant are still eligible for SSP participation provided they justify the time to be dedicated to both projects; an individual's personnel costs may not be covered by both EIF and CURS. Applicants with questions about multiple grant applications are encouraged to consult with the program director, [Dr. Quentin Davis](#).

Funding requests (additional to personnel) of up to \$500 may cover supplies, or travel during the program to support research activity or presentations. Ineligible costs include publication fees, abstract fees, and related travel that occurs after July of the program. CURS covers the cost of one poster per student for the Symposium that may be presented at other conferences.

Student Selection

Students must apply and be accepted to the SSP in order to participate. Some faculty may have students in mind whom they would like to mentor in the program, while others may not. CURS can facilitate student selection by screening students for base requirements (e.g., a particular course) and providing the faculty with the names of several potential SSP students. Mentors will then interview students and submit their preferences for a particular student(s). CURS will attempt to give everyone their first choice(s) whenever possible.

Instructions and Review Process

Faculty should complete the online [SSP application form](#) (open Nov 1-Jan 4). No additional uploaded forms are necessary. No hard-copy applications will be accepted. All proposals will undergo a review process by our interdisciplinary committee of faculty, thus any disciplinary-specific jargon should be clearly defined or avoided. The style and level of detail for discipline-specific grants (e.g., NIH, NSF) or journal articles are inappropriate for this application which should focus foremost on undergraduate student learning. We are seeking faculty who have strong communication skills, are passionate mentors, and are able to translate the objectives and application of his/her scholarship to a broad and diverse audience. Any questions or concerns should be directed to [CURS](#), 706-729-2094.

Additional Info:

- The SSP has become more competitive in recent years as we have an increased number of faculty who apply to be part of the program. For this reason, as of Summer 2023 we are limiting the number of sequential years a faculty member can participate to 3 years, if funding is restricted. If a faculty member has participated 3 years in a row, they may be ineligible to participate for one year before they may apply again.
- Faculty who have previously been accepted into the program are not guaranteed a spot in subsequent years. It is highly recommended that faculty who are applying for a subsequent year clearly state how the project has developed in the last year and how this research or scholarship will help to elevate the research status of the university.
- A well-written mentorship philosophy is a requirement for the program and a very important factor in our selection process. Faculty should take this seriously and carefully consider their mentoring priorities and strategies.
- Final acceptance into the SSP program requires IRB or IACUC approval (if applicable) by April 1st. Lack of approval by April 1 will result in the project being removed from the SSP for that year.



Subsequent IACUC/IRB approval after April 1 will yield a guaranteed acceptance into the following year's SSP if the applicant wishes to participate the following year.

- If a student mentee is named in the proposal, the proposal should also describe the development of skills thus far in the research and how the program will differ from or build upon those experiences and add to the student's knowledge and skills.

Project Proposal

The online project proposal will include the following sections. Use language for a broad non- discipline-specific reviewer. Each area is scored on a scale of 0-5 a sample scoring rubric is available online.

1. Research Title (Limit to 10 words) – Interdisciplinary-friendly title of the summer project. (This is NOT necessarily the same as a journal article title.).
2. Introduction (300-350 words)- Provide an introduction to the general research topic and include an explanation of the project objectives and a lay description of the significance to the discipline. **If the project requires approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), please include this information in the timeline for acquiring approval for the project.
3. Mentoring Philosophy (min 250 words) –Mentoring is a core facet of the SSP program. [The Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis \(IUPUI\)](#) has a great resource for developing and writing a mentoring philosophy.
4. Timeline –(no limit) Provide a clear weekly timeline of expected student activities and at least weekly in-person meetings.
5. Budget Justification (no limit)
 - Part 1) Justification and Explanation of Expenses: Provide a description of how the supplies or travel requested in the budget will be used and contribute to student learning.
 - Part 2) Itemized Expenses: Itemize categories of expenditures so that reviewers are very clear about how funding supports the undergraduate researcher. (If you need funding for supplies/travel occurring after June 30, such as animal care, please list dates and expected amounts in the budget justification.) Excel tables are compatible with this form. For each expense, indicate items that are required for the project to continue and those that are requested but optional or potentially funded from another source.