
GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS



OUR GRANTS



OUR GRANTS: REQUIREMENTS

- **Grant amounts & categories**

- Supplies: up to \$1,000
- Stipends: up to \$1,000
- Conference/performance: up to \$1,500
- Professional development: up to \$500

- **General proposal constraints**

- Two pages max
- Times New Roman, 12-pt, single spaced

- **Submission checklist**

- Narrative uploaded
- Faculty sponsor included
- Conference acceptance letter (if relevant)



OVERCOMING MENTAL BLOCKS

"Is my work good enough to be paid to do it"	It is UNC's job to make sure you are prepared for your future, and that includes learning to self-advocate. Fake it till you make it!
"If I apply and don't get it, my work is probably not that good/valuable"	With increases in applicants and UNC budget cuts, often we are unable to fund really high quality projects. We are happy to provide feedback on all proposals submitted so you can have a realistic picture of the strengths and weaknesses we perceive in your application. Failure and reject are extremely important for learning.
"Will my faculty advisor be disappointed in me if I do not get the grant?"	Faculty themselves have likely had many grant rejections or research setbacks. If your advisor is open to it, talking to them about how they cultivated their growth mindset might be helpful to reframe those experiences for you if it happens.
Uncomfortable emotions	Research often takes you out of your comfort zone because it is unpredictable and rapidly expanding your abilities. Explore ways you can take small steps to learn or break down tasks to limit feeling entirely overwhelmed or self-critical.



OUR GRANTS: COMMON ERRORS

- Missing required information about faculty involvement, timeline, methods, etc.
- Using jargon that would not be understood outside the discipline
- Not informing faculty sponsor of application
- Lack of supporting research/citation
- Unclear connection to career or leadership development
 - Your project does not have to be within your discipline to develop essential skills!
- No hook – What is impactful about your project? Why should we value this research?
- Submitting the same proposal as a prior semester or partner in a group. *Groups can submit one application*



GRANT WRITING: A FEW FUNDAMENTAL TIPS

- Whenever possible, use the exact headings in the grant application or grant rubric to structure your document. Always carefully follow the instructions. Word counts matter.
- Don't exaggerate claims or promises. Be truthful and highlight the ways in which your work speaks to the call. Carefully acknowledge shortcomings.
- Whenever possible write in active voice (not "It is likely that the research will contribute X" but "I aim to contribute X"). Using "I / we" makes a document tremendously easier to read.



HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR APPLICATION

- Seek feedback from your faculty and our consultation meetings
- Ensure someone outside your discipline reviews and understands your proposal.
 - Take your grant application narrative to the UNC Writing Center. They can help with structure and concision. They can also tell you if a non-expert can understand your writing.



OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



SGA FUNDING

- Conference Grants

- " funding provided to eligible undergraduate students to help cover academic conference expenses, including registration fees, travel, and lodging. The grant supports students who are presenting, attending, or participating in conferences related to their field of study and must be sponsored by a faculty member to ensure the event is academic in nature.

Individuals shall be limited to receiving \$550.00 per semester. Individuals shall be limited to receiving \$900.000 per academic year."

- DEADLINE APRIL 1

- SPA Funding

- "The Student Allocation Process is designed to promote innovation within university organizations by providing funding and support for the implementation of new programs/activities with the intent of enhancing the university experience for all students."

- Deadline (for both) April 1, 7:00p



UNC SCHOLARSHIPS

UNCO Academic Works: <https://unco.academicworks.com/>

Large UNC Scholarships – some with extra activities required:

- [Phelps C.A.P. Awards](#)
- [Reisher Scholars](#)
- [Stryker Leadership Program](#)
- [President's Leadership Program](#)

Deadline February 1



REUS

Research Experiences for Undergraduates

Competitive summer research programs that are funded with Stipends, Room & Board!

Fantastic way to gain research experience – and looks good for graduate schools!!

Many options especially in the Natural and Social Sciences, at many of USA's top research Universities.

Benefits

Experience research in a different University setting.

Meet other faculty at Universities where you may want to apply for graduate school.

Meet other students from across the country.

Some have generous stipends that pay you, as well as a room and board stipend.



WHERE TO FIND REUS



- **REU Finder:** <https://reufinder.com/>
Programs for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, international students, and undocumented students
- **Pathways to Science:** <https://www.pathwaystoscience.org/>
- **Undergraduate Research Opportunities & Internships in Psychology:**
<https://www.apa.org/education-career/undergrad/research-opportunities>
- **Summer Research Opportunities Program:** <https://apps.btaa.org/srop/apply>
 - Research opportunities at the Big Ten Academic Alliance universities
Goal to increase underrepresented students
- **Deadline: February** for Summer programs
- **Leadership Alliance: Summer Research Early Identification Program (SR-EIP):**
<https://theleadershipalliance.org/>
 - Goal is to diversify research workforce . Research fields in Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, Education, Engineering, Humanities, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Psychology, and Social Sciences
- **Deadline: February** for Summer



SCHOLAR PROGRAMS

- [McNair Scholars Research Program](#) – Provides support for research and applying to graduate school with stipend support
 - Rolling deadline – priority by Feb. 15
 - For Juniors and Seniors
 - Must be income qualified



RECOMMENDATION LETTERS



- Cultivate 3-4 or even 5 individuals – faculty and administrators, sometimes supervisors, definitely research supervisors/mentors.
- Understand title, position, faculty tenure status
 - What is the difference between Instructor, Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor?
- Mix of individuals who know you from different areas.
- NOT just an instructor in a class you received a high grade – that will not be enough.
- Therefore, you need to be doing additional work, extra projects, Honors, McNair, leadership positions, department club officer positions.
- Sometimes can (and sometimes should) include an internship supervisor.
- Recommenders for highly competitive national fellowships should be willing to provide you or your fellowship advisor with a draft of the recommendation in advance for edits.



IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS



TIMELINES

- Look now (whenever "now" is) for opportunities you might be able to apply for in the future.
- Create a customized timeline for each opportunity – working backwards from final due date to when you would be working on obtaining recommendations, writing our statements or proposals etc.
- You must plan to upload all your materials at least 1-2 days BEFORE the deadline, never ON deadline.
- Triple check the list of requirements for the opportunity.
 - For instance: often an official transcript may be required to be sent directly by the institution. You must request this far in advance!
 - Check if an institutional endorsement is required. If yes, you must request that through U-Engage office at least 2 months in advance, normally.
 - Some opportunities only allow 1 or a small number of student applications from that institution to be submitted. You may be required to compete at the institutional level first.

