UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN COLORADO
College of Natural and Health Sciences

Phelps Family NHS Student Research CAP Award

The Phelps Family NHS Student Research Contribute, Achieve, Pay-It-Forward (CAP) Awards are competitive $6,000 scholarships intended to enhance the academic experience and success of undergraduate students in the College of Natural and Health Sciences at UNC through engagement in a research project that is guided by faculty. The CAP Awards are intended to recognize exemplary undergraduate student research by those students who promote CAP values and behaviors. CAP values and behaviors include: **C**ontributing to one's community; **A**chieving one's goals through perseverance and overcoming obstacles; and **P**aying-it-forward by impacting the lives of others in meaningful and positive ways through small and large, random and planned acts of kindness, caring and giving back.

Students can receive a CAP Award to recognize outstanding research completed within the last academic year in any College of NHS discipline. **Students who will complete their research project prior to the end of the spring 2027 semester are eligible to apply**.

Applications are accepted one time per year and are due **March 22, 2027 by 5:00 PM**.

Eligibility to Apply

- Must be a full-time undergraduate student or a senior undergraduate student in the final semester in the College of Natural and Health Sciences;
- Must have completed an application and research project, submitted by an individual or a research team, approved under guidelines set by the Dean of the College; and
- Must submit, to the College's CAP Student Research Awards Selection Committee, a written summary, in the format prescribed, that describes the research and the results according to the established criteria by **May 24, 2027**

Award Recipient Requirements:

- Additionally you will be required to engage with the foundation donors in some capacity. Details will be provided if selected.

Review Process:

The review process can take up to 3 weeks.

- Applications are screened for completeness.
- The NHS Awards Committee, a committee of NHS faculty and staff, will review your application, examining your essay for evidence of the nature, extent, and quality of your research activities, the role you play in this research and your CAP values and behaviors. All reviewers understand the research enterprise well and will provide numerical scores and comments based on a rubric that encompasses the criteria specified below.
- All applicants receive notification on whether their proposal was funded or not funded.

Selection Criteria

The committee evaluating your application will use the criteria listed below. Each bullet point does not need to be satisfied; they are factors that reviewers will take into account in their evaluation.

Quality of Applicant

- Demonstrated academic preparation and the student's potential for ongoing success.
- Motivation: sincere curiosity and dedication to the topic and research process.
- Mentor's overall assessment of student's abilities and contributions to the completed research project.
- Clear illustration of how the applicant exemplifies CAP values and behaviors.

Understanding of Research

- Clarity and depth of the research project description.
- The research's contribution to it's field or broader contexts.
- The student's demonstrated mastery of the concepts, methodologies, and questions central to the research.
- Clear evidence that the work represents the student's contributions and understanding, articulated in their own voice.

Quality and Intensity of Experience

- The student's level of investment and engagement in their research.
- The scope and challenge of the work relative to the student's stage of development.
- Evidence of strong mentoring support and a productive and supportive research environment

Educational and Long-Term Impact

- Achieved learning outcomes from the research experience.
- Articulation of long-term educational and/or career goals and how the research experience supports these goals.
- Impact of financial support on student's engagement with research and impact of receiving a CAP Award.

Feedback on your Application

If you did not receive a CAP Award you may still find it valuable to hear what aspects of your proposal could be improved if you are planning to apply for other scholarships, graduate school, grants or even a job. To receive feedback on your application, contact David.Hydock@unco.edu.

NHS Undergraduate Student Research CAP Scholarship Application

Before you begin your application, please acquaint yourself with the purpose of the CAP Award, eligibility requirements, the elements that comprise your application and the review process and selection criteria.

Students **must email a single pdf application** (including faculty support letter) to David.Hydock@unco.edu by the stated deadline. *If faculty have questions or concerns regarding the support letter, please contact the NHS Dean's Office.*

SECTION 1 – ELIGIBILITY (APPLICATIONS NOT MEETING THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED)

- What is your major? (must be in the College of NHS) _____
- Current cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale (must be at least 3.0) _____
- Any documented violations of UNC policy within the past year? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Have you previously received this award? Yes ☐ No ☐

SECTION 2 – PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name: (last name)	(first name)	(middle initial)
Primary Phone Number:	Email Address:	

SECTION 3 – RESEARCH PROJECT AND CAP VALUES/ BEHAVIORS DESCRIPTIONS

In a separate document, provide your responses to the information below:

1. Project title, description, general dates of involvement, average hours spent per week.
2. Essay, uploaded as a PDF.
   a. Your essay should be a maximum of **1,250 words**. Essays should be double-spaced, in 12-point font or equivalent size with standard margins. You may include images or figures. References do not count against the 1,250 work limit.
   b. **Essay prompt**: In your own words, describe your research and what you and your faculty mentor have learned from your work. Discuss your motivations for getting involved in this research project and how this work contributes to your education and to the development of your future career plans. Be sure that your description includes how you exhibit one or more of the following CAP values and behaviors:
      i. Contribute to your community.
      ii. Achieve your goals by persevering and overcoming obstacles.
      iii. Pay it forward by impacting the lives of others in meaningful and positive ways to them through small and large, random and planned acts of kindness, caring and giving-back.

SECTION 4 – FACULTY SUPPORT

Obtain a letter of support from 1 UNC faculty member who worked directly with you on your research related activities. Faculty members may find it helpful to review the evaluation criteria listed above when writing their letters of support.