

Call for Proposals

College of Natural and Health Sciences

2020-2021 Student Research Fund

The College of Natural and Health Sciences (NHS) established in spring 2006 a new Foundation account entitled the NHS Student Research Fund. Supported through donations by faculty, staff, and friends of the College, as well as proceeds generated by the NHS Student Research Celebration, the Student Research Fund, once it is of sufficient size, will generate funds to support research and research-related travel by the College's students. Until that time, the NHS Dean's Office will supplement the Student Research Fund, in order to make available a pool of monies to support student research activities. These funds will be made available on a competitive basis through a proposal process. Two calls for proposals will be made per academic year (one in fall and one in spring).

Purpose

The Student Research Fund is designed to support research and research-related travel by NHS students. Due to our current pandemic situation, proposals for the **fall 2020 semester** may include a request for funds related to research materials, supplies, equipment, **virtual/remote conferences** (either for research purposes or to present research findings; **no in-person conference travel proposals will be considered**) and other research expenses not available within the school/department. **Please note that proposal requests regarding in-person travel to conferences will be re-evaluated prior to the spring 2021 semester application deadline.** Salaries are not eligible for funding. All expenses must be consistent with University policy (<http://www.unco.edu/purchasing/acctpay/travpro.htm>).

Funding Level

A total pool of \$7,500 is expected to be made available in the 2020-2021 academic year. Individual proposals may request up to \$500.

Eligibility

Undergraduate and graduate students who have been admitted to a degree program within the College of Natural and Health Sciences. Students are eligible for one award per academic year. Students are limited to one proposal per semester.

Proposal Submission Deadline

Two rounds of funding will take place in the 2020-21 academic year. In order to be reviewed, completed electronic applications must be received by the NHS Dean's Office (NHS@unco.edu) by 5:00pm on the following:

- October 12, 2020 for the fall semester competition
- January 29, 2021 for the spring semester competition
- Students **must email a single pdf application** (including faculty support letter) to the NHS Dean's Office (NHS@unco.edu) by the stated deadline. *If faculty have concerns regarding support letter, please contact NHS Dean's Office.*

Proposal Review Procedure

Proposals received by the stated deadlines will be reviewed by the NHS Awards Committee, who will recommend to the Dean of the College an allocation of funds.

Proposal Format

Each application for Student Research Fund monies must include the following in a proposal that should be written by the student (not the research advisor or any other faculty member, although those individuals may help students refine their proposals).

NHS Student Research Fund Application

Student Name (Print):

Student School/Department:

Student Classification (check one): Undergraduate Masters Doctorate

Degree Program:

Proposal Type: Research Virtual Conference

Student e-mail:

Student Signature:

Research Mentor Name (Print):

Research Mentor Approval Signature:

School Director/Department Chair Signature:

Project Title:

Project Narrative and Significance:

Project narrative and significance should be no longer than two (2) pages of single-spaced 12-point font. Because faculty reviewers are in diverse fields and may not be acquainted with your area, **write the proposal for readers outside of your field**. Do not assume that reviewers will understand or value your research unless you can make a strong case. Items to address in your proposal include the following:

- a. A description of the proposed activity and its significance.
- b. An explanation of the significance of the proposed research. At least one third of the proposal should be devoted to a description of the significance. The significance should address questions such as: Will the project address a gap in our knowledge? Does the project involve an innovative approach? If quantitative research, will the proposed activity lead to valid data that can be statistically analyzed? What is the impact of the proposed activity on the research community and/or society?
- a. In proposals requesting funds to conduct research, it is not necessary to include the research question(s), hypotheses and actual steps in each procedure you plan to perform.
- b. If the proposal relates to previously funded student research, please reference how the current project is related to outcomes of the previous/ongoing work.
- c. The inclusion of a reference list may be appropriate. This list will not count towards the 2-page limit
- d. If requesting virtual conference funds, include a copy of the abstract as an attachment (will not count towards 2-page limit) and indicate whether the paper has been invited and/or accepted. If you are waiting to hear about the acceptance, indicate when that decision will be announced.

Project Budget and Timeline (No more than two (2) pages):

- a. A detailed itemized project budget and total requested with a detailed timeline.
- b. If funds are requested for virtual conference participation, include the title of the meeting. If accepted please include acceptance letter.
- c. If total project budget exceeds \$500, include a list of other project funding sources from which you are seeking funds (if applicable).
- d. All equipment/software proposals must be accompanied by a budget justification verifying the equipment/software needs are outside of existing resources.

Attachments:

- a. A letter of support from a faculty research mentor addressing the following:
 - i. Significance of the project for the student's research/professional development.
 - ii. Verification of non-consumable equipment/software needs outside of program resources and equipment/software value to future student projects.
 - iii. Statement of consent
- b. If attending a conference or other professional meeting, a copy of the abstract.