

# LSU College of Agriculture

## 2018-19 Undergraduate Research Grants

Each year, the College of Agriculture (CoA) offers competitive grants for research by undergraduate students in the college. The purpose of these grants is to teach students about research, including proposal writing. Research can be in any area of study in the College of Agriculture. Multidisciplinary projects are strongly encouraged. All research must be under the direction of a College of Agriculture faculty member. Student investigators should take the lead on proposals with guidance from faculty advisors. Multiple proposals with the same faculty advisor(s) must be independent projects. Where applicable, reports from previous funded CoA undergraduate research grants must be attached, including verification of participation in a CoA-sponsored poster competition (see below). Grants will be administered in the Department/School with assistance of cost center managers (CCMs). The number of grants awarded depend on the amount of interest earned in the Millard Perkins endowment. There are two award types:

- **Level 1:** The College of Agriculture's Millard Perkins endowment funds Level 1 and is limited to a maximum of \$3,000 per grant. Funds may be used for supplies, operating services, and travel (i.e., any non-personnel expenses). Funds may not be used for salaries or wages. Students may receive academic credit under appropriate research or special topic courses within a unit.
- **Level 2:** The LSU AgCenter will provide additional support to those undergraduate researchers receiving awards. These students can earn a maximum of \$4,000 at an hourly wage and schedule, including summer employment, agreed upon by the student and faculty mentor(s). In order to qualify for this support, undergraduate researchers must have a minimum LSU GPA of 3.00 with at least 30 hours of earned degree credit and meet LSU AgCenter's hiring eligibility requirements. This is not a requirement to participate in the CoA's competitive grant program and students can choose only to receive the research funding without employment. Selection of successful candidates to receive LSU AgCenter Level 2 funding will occur separately (using the same nomination materials) after the CoA has completed its process.

### **Process & Timeline**

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by a faculty committee. Funding amounts are determined by this ranking. Please see "Evaluation Criteria for CoA Undergraduate Research Proposals" for guidance (next page). Due to the call for proposals going out later than normal, there will be two award cycles for 2018-19. Key dates for Cycle 1 are listed below:

- Application Deadline: **June 15, 2018** (submit electronically to Dr. Phil Elzer, Executive Associate Dean, at [pelzer@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:pelzer@agcenter.lsu.edu))
- Award Notification: July 1, 2018
- Grant Period: August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019

A second Call for Proposals will be announced on August 15, 2018 for Cycle 2 awards. The grant period will be November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019. Proposals should be submitted during one cycle; however, any suitable proposals identified in Cycle 1 unable to be awarded due to insufficient funds in the endowment will be placed on a "wait list" for Cycle 2.

## **Format**

- I. Title Page - 1 page
  - A. Title
  - B. Beginning and ending date
  - C. Type of Award: Level 1; Level 2; Levels 1 & 2
  - D. Student Investigator(s) Names and Signature(s)
  - E. Faculty Supervisor(s) Name, Department, and Signature(s)
- II. Project Description - 3 pages maximum
  - A. Introduction
  - B. Objectives
  - C. Procedures/Methodology
  - D. Significance
- III. References Cited - 1 page
- IV. Proposed Budget (with narrative) - 1 page

*Level 2: additional budget page and narrative, description of work for student wages*
- V. Student Resume(s) - 1 page/student

*Level 2: must include undergraduate researcher(s)' current LSU GPA and degree credit hours earned*
- VI. Previous Support - By each person involved in the proposed project, list previous CoA undergraduate research grants received in the last five years and attach copies of the final reports from these grants.

For Level 2 funding, be sure to include the *required information* in Parts IV & V above.

## **Deliverables**

- Final Report - a full report of results, including proposed presentations, publications and possible patents must be submitted to Dr. Phil Elzer, CoA Executive Associate Dean, within 30 days of the completion of the research (ending date of grant).
- Financial Statement - a complete financial statement must also be submitted with the final report.
- Poster - a large format, laminated poster of the project is required as well as researcher participation at a spring event to be determined in the near future (ex, CoA Open House during SPIN or LSU Discover Day). Details about the poster and event will be provided at a later date. Note that Level 1 funds can be used to cover poster printing costs.

## Evaluation Criteria - CoA Undergraduate Research Proposals

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Investigator(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Department/School: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Overview of Problem (0 to 10 points) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Is the overview well referenced?
  - Is it clear how the study fills a need or void?
  - Is it well written and interesting?
2. Soundness of Objectives (0 to 10 points) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Are plans/hypotheses clearly articulated?
  - Are researchers specific about their goals?
3. Procedures/Method (0 to 10 points) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Is it clear how objectives are being tested or achieved?
  - Is the research design solid?
  - Is work rigorous? Are data analyses appropriate?
4. Significance and Originality of Research (0 to 10 points) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Is a solid argument for importance of work made?
  - Does the research have broad implications?
  - Is the research novel?
5. Likelihood of success (0 to 10 points) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Can the project be completed in a year?
  - Is the amount and complexity of work suitable for students?
6. Budget Justification (0 to 10 points) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Is the budget reasonable and well justified?
  - Are travel expenses to meetings economical for undergraduate travel?
7. Learning potential for undergraduates (0 to 10 points) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Will students learn about project design, data collection, analysis, etc?
  - Will there be tangible end-products, such as a presentation, posters, or publications?
8. Student resumes (0 to 10 points) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Are students active academically as evidenced by awards, work experience, GPA?
  - Are resumes well organized, informative, and impressive?
9. Previous CoA Undergraduate Research Support (0 to 15 points) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Are reports from earlier CoA Research Grant(s) included?
10. Overall Enthusiasm for Project (0 to 5 points) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Is this a top-notch project for undergraduates?

**Total:** (0 to 100 points) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: