Creating Successful Undergraduate Research Grants

Dr. David Reamer
Associate Professor of English and Writing
Director, Office of Undergraduate Research & Inquiry
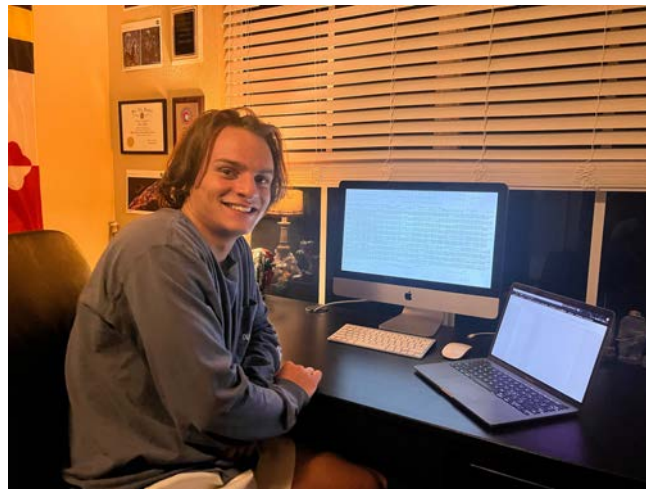
OURI Research Grants

OURI grants support inquiry-based research in all majors:

- Laboratory research
- Field research
- Archival research
- Data analysis
- Artistic production

Research Benefits

Students engaged in undergraduate research gain many benefits:

- Improving critical thinking skills

- Improving written communication abilities

- Improving public speaking/presentation skills

- Gaining practical skills in specific fields of work or study

- Developing relationships with faculty mentors

- Enhancing resumes for job and grad school applications

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)

- Requirements
  - Projects completed during summer
  - One student, one faculty mentor
  - Students must attend regular summer meetings at UT
  - Students cannot register for summer courses
  - Projects must culminate in a presentation, exhibition, or submission for publication
  - Proposals due 2/9 for summer 2024

- Benefits
  - $3500 student/$1000 faculty stipend
  - Summer housing for student if needed
  - $2000 supplies and travel budget

Undergraduate Research & Inquiry (URI)

- Requirements
  - Projects completed during academic year (independent studies OK)
  - One or two faculty mentors, up to three students (larger teams can be coordinated across multiple grants)
  - Projects must culminate in a presentation, exhibition, or submission for publication
  - Proposals due 3/1 for AY 2024-25

- Benefits
  - $1000 student/$1000 faculty stipend
  - $2000 supplies and travel budget

To get started:

- Ask faculty members about their research
- Talk to faculty about your own research goals or project ideas
- Volunteer to assist in labs or on projects
- Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry in PH 228 (but well before any deadlines!)
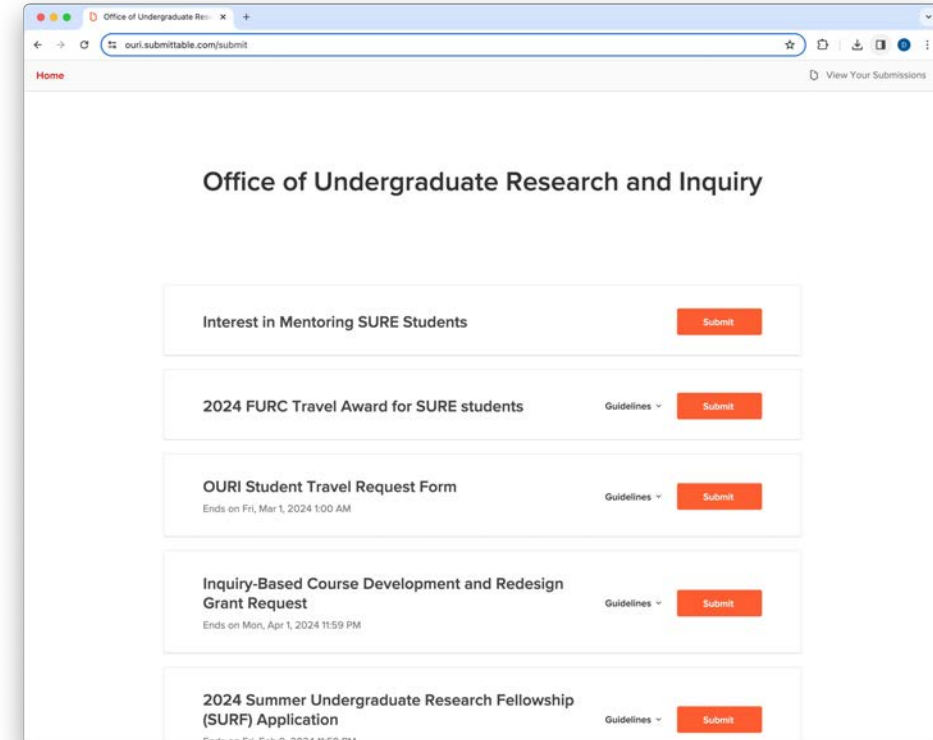
Applying for a Grant

All grant applications are handled through Submittable.

- Students and faculty members collaborate on project description, budget, mentoring plan, etc.

- Some questions have been revised

- Sections now indicate who should be writing each answer

- Proposals must be clear, specific, and manageable in the time available

- Outcomes must include plans to submit for publication, exhibition, or presentation at an appropriate conference

- [Let's look at the application](#)!

Proposals are read and rated by multiple faculty members, who are looking for the following characteristics:

- Clear, accessible language that explains your project to nonexperts

- A strong mentoring plan that will offer the student guidance and support while allowing them to lead the research project

- A detailed and justified budget and timeline

- Appropriate plans to share the research via presentation, exhibition, or publication, with fallback plans

- Red flags, such as indications that the faculty member and student are not on the same page, unclear budgets or timelines, or indications that care and attention to detail are lacking (e.g., typos or unanswered questions)

Important Takeaways

- **<u>Collaborate</u> to compose the project proposal.**

- **Use clear, accessible language to describe your project.**

- **Answer questions thoroughly, with attention to detail in budget, outcomes, timelines, etc.**

- **Review and revise before submitting.**

- **Don't miss the deadline!**

- **Contact OURI@ut.edu or visit ut.edu/inquiry for more information**

Questions?