

# Norton Undergraduate Research Scholarship

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## Application Guidelines

**Purpose:** The Norton Undergraduate Research Scholarship is a scholarship program designed to assist undergraduate students in their pursuit of academic research or creative activity. The program requires that each application be prepared by a qualified undergraduate student, and that the proposal describes a research project or creative activity that will engage the student in research skills and techniques of that discipline. A faculty member is required to mentor the undergraduate student and provide oversight of the research project or creative activity. Research conducted by Norton Scholars with faculty mentors should contribute in meaningful ways to the knowledge base of a given discipline and support the strategic initiatives of the University. Recipients of the Norton Undergraduate Research Scholarship may request to have the award applied toward annual educational costs or to cover research-related expenses.

**Award:** Up to two students will be selected to receive a scholarship in the amount of **\$1,000** each.

**Eligibility:** The Scholarship program is open to sophomore or junior status undergraduate students who have demonstrated a 3.0 GPA both cumulatively and in the major in which the research will be conducted.

**Deadline for Submission:** The deadline for submissions will be by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. When April 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the proposals will be due on the Monday immediately following the deadline date. Submission of the attached **Application Form** and a **Letter of Recommendation** from the faculty mentor in a PDF format must be submitted electronically to [bradley.wilson@sru.edu](mailto:bradley.wilson@sru.edu). Incomplete applications or applications without a Letter of Recommendation will not be reviewed.

**Timeframe for Project:** Funding decisions will be announced by the end of each spring semester. Projects are to be conducted during the academic year following the funding announcement. A final report will be due to the Office of Academic Affairs and Integrated Learning no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> of the same semester.

**Selection Criteria:** Applications will be reviewed by the SRU Student Research Grants Committee based on the following:

- The importance of the research topic in the discipline and to Slippery Rock University's strategic initiatives.
- The research experience of the student in general and preliminary work in the proposed research topic area.
- The likelihood of the research project being completed successfully.
- The quality of the student as indicated in the letter of recommendation by the faculty mentor.

**Expectations of the Scholars:** Scholars are also expected to submit an abstract for consideration of an oral or poster presentation at the annual SRU Student Symposium for Research, Scholarship and Creative Achievement held each Spring semester. Both the faculty mentor and the scholarship recipient will need to complete a final report form detailing the outcomes of the project. Norton Scholars and faculty mentors may be asked to participate at admissions events, the SRU Symposium for Student Research, Scholarship and Creative Achievement and/or other events.

For more information, please contact Dr. Brad Wilson by telephone at 724-738-2379 or by email at [bradley.wilson@sru.edu](mailto:bradley.wilson@sru.edu).

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## Application Form

Name of Undergraduate Student:	
SRU Email Address:	Phone:
Major:	Number of Credits Earned:
Major GPA:	Cumulative GPA:
Title of Project:	
Project Start Date:	Project End Date:
Name of Faculty Mentor:	
Faculty Mentor Department:	
Faculty Mentor Email Address:	

**Statement of proposed research (not to exceed 750 words).** Include the research question, including its importance to the discipline and the university's strategic initiatives, the research hypotheses, the research methods, a timeline and an estimate of any research expenses.

**Statement of experience (not to exceed 750 words).** Provide a short description of your research experience in general and any research work that has been completed on the topic. Also include a brief description of how this research will support your future goals and career/academic path.

## Submission Instructions

The completed and signed **Application Form** and the **Letter of Recommendation** from the faculty mentor must be scanned into a PDF document and sent electronically to [bradley.wilson@sru.edu](mailto:bradley.wilson@sru.edu) by **4:00 p.m. on April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.** (NOTE: When April 1<sup>st</sup> falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the proposals will be due on the Monday immediately following the deadline date.) Incomplete applications or applications without a Letter of Recommendation will not be reviewed.

### STUDENT STATEMENT:

If selected for funding, I request the Scholarship funds to be:

applied toward my annual educational costs (Student Banner ID# \_\_\_\_\_)

OR

applied toward covering the research-related expenses of the project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Undergraduate Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Mentor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date