

RiseAbove Summer Undergraduate Research Grant

Application Deadline: Open until funds are allocated.

Purpose: This competitive summer grant is intended to encourage more students and faculty to engage in 499 mentored research during the summer.

Who is eligible to apply? Any Milligan College undergraduate who wants to work on a mentored research project during the months of May, June, July or August.

How flexible is the summer research program? The program is very flexible. Students and mentors may propose any type of schedule and may choose to do any type of research project as long as it fulfills the parameters of the 499 course.

How competitive is this grant? There is a limited amount of money to support summer research but the Office of Undergraduate Research will attempt to support as many summer research projects as possible. If the amount applied for by late April exceeds the budget, then there will be a competitive review of the applications. The applications will be reviewed and ranked by a committee of 2-3 faculty or staff who are not also applying for the grant. An attempt will be made to fully or partially fund as many projects as possible. Projects will be ranked based on the following priorities: a) fulfilling the student learning outcomes associated with the RiseAbove program, b) including mentors who are new to the 499 or new to summer research, c) high impact research studies (e.g., likely to be published or presented at national conferences), d) students with limited access to other funding sources or summer research opportunities or limited opportunity to conduct research during the fall or spring and e) necessity of funding (can the research be conducted with less money?).

How do I apply? Submit the following to the Office of Undergraduate Research: 1) a typed 499 enrollment form outlining your proposed research activities, 2) an email or letter from your mentor explaining how he or she will be involved in mentoring you over the summer, and 3) an itemized budget of eligible expenses and a brief explanation of how each expense category is necessary to support your research activities.

What are eligible expenses?

Scholarships: Students can apply for a scholarship equal to 1 credit hour to pay for the 499 summer credit. Students who have other scholarship funds to cover the 1 credit hour should NOT apply for this.

Student stipends: Student researchers can be paid in the summer at a rate of \$8 per hour for up to 320 hours. Students should be actively engaged in research for the entire hour and will be expected to turn in time sheets to their mentor to document work and receive payment. Activities can include any 499 activity, such as, but not limited to: data collection, library work, travel time to and from research sites, writing, and time spent meeting with one's mentor.

Faculty stipends: Faculty will receive \$300 for mentoring any 499 course, but can include an additional stipend of up to \$700 for additional time required to provide direct supervision (e.g., time in the field, data collection, training, data analysis, etc.). Mentors perform these same activities during the fall and spring in the course of mentoring a 499, but often fit this in during regular work hours. Because most faculty are not on contract to teach in the summer, their presence on campus is often limited and sporadic. Thus, faculty stipends can be used to provide compensation for the supervision of student research activities during the summer. For example, a student researcher may plan to collect data during the summer while living at home and may only check in occasionally with a mentor by email. In that case, faculty stipends would not be justified. However, if a faculty mentor will be traveling with a student or coming to campus to work directly with the student on the research, this would be a justifiable stipend overload.

Housing: Students can include up to 60 days of student housing at the current rate of \$5 per day. Approval for this expense is not a guarantee that you will be approved to stay in a dorm or that a room will be available for the entire timeframe you request. **Housing should only be included if the primary reason for staying on campus is to conduct the research and only for the amount of time necessary to conduct the research.**

Research Expenses: Students enrolled in a 499 are already eligible for up to \$100 toward research expenses. You may include this in the summer budget but any amount used will be applied toward the maximum amount you can obtain as a 499 student. This amount would also include research travel-related expenses. If you have expenses that exceed \$100, you may request additional funds but there is no guarantee they can be approved.

Maximum Expenses: No single student or faculty mentor can be approved for more than \$3,000.