



Office of the Vice President for Research

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Undergraduate Creative Discovery Scholar and Undergraduate Research Summer 2026 Scholar Awards (Deadline for Applications: March 6, 2026)

President Smith has announced the availability of funds sponsored by his office to continue the University-wide award program. This program provides undergraduates with an opportunity to pursue original creative work, scholarship, or research, under the mentorship of a full-time faculty member. The awards **provide \$4,000 to be paid directly to the student** for use as a student stipend, travel, and/or supplies/materials for Summer 2026. A **\$1,000 stipend is provided for the participating faculty mentor** for Summer 2026.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be undergraduates with a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Graduates are ineligible (including graduates from Spring 2026).
- Applicants must be enrolled at Marshall University for at least 12 hours during Spring 2026.
- Applicants must have a letter of support and sponsorship from a full-time faculty member who is willing to serve as mentor for the project (so ask your mentor for this early in the process).
- Students must be eligible for campus employment.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS-

The student's project can involve research, design, development, field study, creative work, or performance. The project should require a total commitment of 200-300 hours of the student's time (i.e., 20-30 hours per week for 10 weeks) over the summer. The project will be structured so that the student can produce creative or scholarly output (e.g., a presentation, publication, exhibit, or performance) at the end of the award period.

An important aspect of this program is the engagement of a faculty mentor to oversee the student's effort. After agreeing on a particular project, the faculty member assists the student in writing and submitting a proposal, supervises the student's scholarly activity, and assists in the construction of the student's final project report. The award is intended to support projects which require both original intellectual and faculty-assisted input from awardees.

DUE DATE- Complete applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2026. Please upload your application directly to the link at <https://marshall.infoready4.com/>. The letter of support is also due March 6th. As soon as you have spoken to your advisor about this project, please start the application process as the application portal (InfoReady) will send the letter request directly.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS- The Creative Works and Scholarly Activities Committee (CWSA), chartered by the Provost, chaired by the VP for Research, and composed of a representative from each college, will review the proposals as prioritized by the originating colleges and select the projects that will be funded under this program. Questions can be directed to Amanda Plumely, plumleya@marshall.edu.

NUMBER OF AWARDS ANTICIPATED- 14

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS- April 24, 2026

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Proposals should be written with minimal use of jargon. Mentors may provide editorial and revision assistance for student proposals, but they must be primarily the work of student applicants.

The project proposal should not exceed five single-spaced pages. The student's name, college and project title should appear in the header on each page. The appendices and attachments are not included in the length restriction. A letter of support from the faculty mentor is to be submitted separately from the student application. The following format should be followed:

1. Applicant and Mentor Information The title of the project, the student's name, 901#, email address, and major should be provided along with the name, department, email address, and phone number of the faculty mentor.

2. Project Description. This section should consist of a clear layperson's description of the project and its importance. Since proposals will be reviewed by faculty with subject matter expertise but not necessarily with direct involvement in the student's proposed area of study, careful consideration should be given to giving a concise description of the "what" and "so what" of the proposal.

3. Methodology. Provide a description of how the scholarly/research topic is to be investigated or the creative activity is to be conducted. What steps are involved? What sources and resources will be used?

4. Independence of the Project. Describe the independent contribution you will make to the research, creative work, or scholarship.

5. Outcomes. Provide a description of the anticipated outcomes associated with the project, e.g., a conference presentation, report, journal article, exhibition, performance, or Senior Honors Thesis.

6. Budget. Include a short paragraph describing how the project funds will be used.

7. Appendices, Attachments. If appropriate, the student should include copies of research materials such as questionnaires to be used and any other forms as appropriate. Please upload your application directly to the link at <https://marshall.infoready4.com/>.

8. Faculty Mentor's Letter of Support. Please upload your application directly to the link at <https://marshall.infoready4.com/> (the faculty will be sent a link by InfoReady). This letter should include:

- The mentor's assessment of the feasibility, originality, and significance of the project.
- The mentor's assessment of the student's ability to conduct the proposed work.
- The time the mentor will make available to work with the student.
- A summary of the mentor's involvement in the project. For example, the mentor might help plan the project, assist the student with the proposal, advise along the way in the project's execution and in development of the deliverable.

COLLEGE COMMITTEE EVALUATION CRITERIA-

- Creative or Scientific Significance- 35 points
- Creative or Scientific Originality- 35 points
- Clarity of the Proposal and Methodology-15 points
- Likelihood of the proposed work being accomplished in the time described- 15 points

Top applications from the colleges are then evaluated by the CWSA review committee based on the college recommendations and the clarity of the applications to a non-expert in the discipline.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants will be required to submit a no-more-than five-page report describing their accomplishments by August 14, 2026 to your Dean and MURC at <https://marshall.infoready4.com/>.