

ACES Undergraduate Research Projects

Application Instructions 2025-2026

Eligibility Requirements

- Classified as an “undergraduate” at New Mexico State University in the College of ACES
- Completed a minimum of 12 credit hours at New Mexico State University
- Achieved a minimum of a 3.0 GPA
- Commit to a minimum of 10 hrs/week for research for each semester

NOTE: Students must meet these minimum requirements at the time of application and for the duration of the project year (2025-2026). Students in all majors within the College of ACES are encouraged to apply.

Funding

ACES UG research scholar funds (\$1,000) will be distributed to the student as a stipend in two (2) equal payments at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters of the award year. Up to \$500 will be provided for research supplies.

Program Participation Requirements

- Attend program meetings (1/semester)
- Attend Progress Report Meeting (Feb. 20, 2026)
- Submit progress and final reports
- Present research at ACES Open House

To Apply:

Submit the following via email to:

Dr. Jennifer Hernandez Gifford: jgifford@nmsu.edu

- Official Application Form
- Unofficial Transcript
- Research Proposal (one-page)
- Mentor Endorsement (signed)

Proposal Guidelines

Research proposals must:

- Be conceived with guidance from Faculty research mentor
- Be written by the student – *not* faculty or graduate student
- Be narrow and focused enough to be completed in 2 semesters
- Projects should be clearly explained in lay language (free of field-specific jargon and readily understood by a broad audience)
- Detail the purpose, plan, methods, expected results and benefits of the project
- Include concrete details about the project goals, activities, timelines and required resources – library and laboratory materials, questionnaires, etc.
- FORMAT: One (1) single-spaced page with title at the top, 12 pt. font with 1-inch margins – NO attachments

Research Faculty Mentors Endorsement

- *Affirms the quality and origin of the proposed research*
- *Confirms availability of resources (labs, materials, etc.)*
- *Describes the mentor’s role in the execution of the project*
- *Explains how the student will benefit from the project*
- *Affirms willingness to attend ACES Open House and program Progress report Meeting (tentatively February 20, 2025)*

DEADLINE: September 19, 2025 (5 pm)