

School of Communication

2009-2010 Student Research and Creative Project Grants

To: School of Communication Students

From: Jane Rankin, Associate Dean for Research

Re: University money for research and creative projects

This memo identifies opportunities for funding undergraduate student projects involving supervised research or creative activity. School of Communication (SoC) faculty are active in research and creative projects, and many of them have openings for undergraduate students to work with them. If you are ready to initiate a project under faculty supervision, you can apply for financial support from Northwestern. Funding programs include the Academic Year and Summer Grant Programs administered by the Northwestern's Undergraduate Research Grant Committee, as well as the Academic Year and Summer Grant Awards from the School of Communication. These funding sources can be used to provide you with money to cover the expenses of research or creative projects. In addition, a Summer Grant can be used to provide a summer stipend.

There are two steps that need to be taken to have a project considered for funding through these programs. First, you need to find a faculty member who is willing to supervise you in a research or creative project. Typical projects include working in a faculty member's laboratory, serving as production assistant, developing research software, conducting a content analysis, or searching an archive. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, and other types of research or creative activities could certainly meet program requirements. *However, this program does not fund production or performance projects, which are considered for funding by the SoC Dean's Advisory Council.* The Undergraduate Research Grant (URG) Committee is particularly interested in funding faculty-sponsored projects in which a student describes a clear rationale for their activities and where there is an identifiable product as a result of their efforts, not just the acquisition of experiences. Your project could provide the basis for an honors thesis or independent study within the faculty member's scope of expertise.

Second, an application has to be completed according to funding program criteria and deadlines. For general information on undergraduate research grants attend one of the information sessions held on Wednesdays at 4 PM during fall quarter and hosted by the Office of Fellowships at 1940 Sheridan road. Or you can visit the Research Grants for Undergraduates home page at: <http://www.northwestern.edu/undergrad-research/>

For eligibility criteria and related information go to: <http://www.northwestern.edu/undergrad-research/guidelines/index.htm>

Information on School of Communication undergraduate funding programs follows.

Academic Year Grant Awards

Award Amount: Up to \$1000

Application deadlines for academic year 2009-2010: Tuesday, October 13; Tuesday, November 3; Tuesday, December 1; Tuesday, January 19; Tuesday, February 23

<http://www.northwestern.edu/undergrad-research/deadlines/index.htm>

If you are completing a degree in the School of Communication you can apply before any of the monthly deadlines for funds to support research or creative projects during the academic year. Submit two identical applications: one to the Undergraduate Research Grant Committee using the URG online submission procedures, and one to the School of Communication Research Grant Committee, convened by Associate Dean Jane Rankin. Proposals to the SoC Research Grant Committee should be sent as electronic attachments to j-rankin@northwestern.edu. Applications for SoC grants that are not funded by the University-wide program will be evaluated for funding by the School of Communication. Applications will not be considered unless an identical proposal has been submitted to URG for possible funding. The program in the School of Communication will follow the same guidelines as the university-wide program, though Independent Study or Honors Seminar enrollment is not required.

Summer Grant Awards

Award Amount: Up to \$3000

Application Deadline: Friday, March 12, 2010, check:

<http://www.northwestern.edu/undergrad-research/deadlines/index.htm>

Students who are completing a degree in the School of Communication and are interested in support for summer projects must submit **two** identical applications: one to the Undergraduate Research Grant Committee, and one to the School of Communication Research Grant Committee, convened by Associate Dean Jane Rankin. Proposals to the SoC Research Grant Committee should be sent as electronic attachments to j-rankin@northwestern.edu. Applications for SoC grants that are not funded by the University-wide program will be evaluated for funding by the School of Communication, but only if the identical proposal was submitted to URG Committee in time for their funding competition. Projects funded by the URG committee will not be considered for funding by the SoC research grant committee.

For information on many research support programs including additional options for summer research funding, go to the Gateways link at:

<http://www.northwestern.edu/undergrad-research/links/index.htm>

If you are considering one of these opportunities, be sure contact a potential faculty mentor soon, preferably someone whose work you are interested in. They should know the quality of your academic work and therefore be confident in your ability to successfully complete the proposed project. If you have any questions about the School of Communication programs, contact Jane Rankin at j-rankin@northwestern.edu.