

## **School of Communication**

### **2011-2012 Student Research and Creative Project Grants**

This memo identifies opportunities for funding undergraduate student projects involving mentored research or creative activity. 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. Your faculty advisor for the project will usually be an NU faculty member, though their appointment need not be in the School of Communication. 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 activities, 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. You can visit the Research Grants for Undergraduates home page for resources for proposal preparation: <http://undergradresearch.northwestern.edu/research-opportunities>

#### **SoC Academic Year Grant Awards**

**Award Amount: Up to \$1000**

**Application deadlines for academic year 2011-2012: Tuesday, October 18, 2011; Tuesday, November 8, 2011; Tuesday, December 6, 2011; Tuesday, January 24, 2012; Tuesday, February 21, 2012**

<http://undergradresearch.northwestern.edu/ayurg>

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](mailto: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 Committee for possible funding, except

when you are ineligible for further funding from them because you have already won an undergraduate research grant in the campus-wide competition. 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.

### **SoC Summer Grant Awards**

**Award Amount: Up to \$3000**

**Application Deadline: early to mid-March, 2012, check:**

<http://undergradresearch.northwestern.edu/summerurg>

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](mailto:j-rankin@northwestern.edu). Applications will not be considered unless an identical proposal has been submitted to URG Communication for possible funding, except when you are ineligible for further funding from them because you have already won an undergraduate research grant in the campus-wide competition. If that's the case, note that in your application. Projects funded by the URG committee will not be considered for funding by the SoC research grant committee. Unfortunately, SoC cannot provide additional funding for grantees whose research expenses exceed \$3000 (e.g., for traveling or living abroad).

If you are considering applying for a summer grant, be sure to 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 undergraduate research grant programs, contact Jane Rankin at [j-rankin@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-rankin@northwestern.edu).