



Office of the Provost
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SUNY Undergraduate Excellence in Research Award
2026-2027 Call for Nominations
Nominations due to SUNY no later than January 15, 2027

I. Award Overview

The [SUNY Undergraduate Excellence in Research Award](#) recognizes undergraduate students whose research or creative activity demonstrates innovation, excellence, and meaningful contributions to their fields of study. Five students will be selected for the inaugural award and will each receive a \$1,000 prize to support their future academic pursuits. Recipients will also be recognized at the 2027 [SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference](#) (SURC).

II. Award Purpose

The SUNY Undergraduate Excellence in Research Award celebrates the scholarship, creativity, and academic achievements of undergraduate students across the SUNY system. This competitive award showcases the breadth and impact of undergraduate research in all disciplines, including the arts, humanities, social sciences, STEM, professional disciplines, and interdisciplinary areas. Non-traditional research and creative projects are encouraged.

III. Eligibility

The SUNY Undergraduate Excellence in Research Award is a competitive award. To be eligible, nominees must:

- Be enrolled as an undergraduate student at a SUNY campus during the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Have undertaken a significant faculty-supervised research or creative activity project while enrolled at a SUNY campus. Research or creative activities may be in progress at the time of nomination.
- Be nominated by their campus through the campus's local selection process.

Research or creative activities conducted during the 2025-2026 academic year or during summer 2026 may be considered provided that the student continues to be an undergraduate during the 2026-2027 academic year.

IV. Nomination Process

All SUNY campuses are eligible and encouraged to participate. Through a locally determined selection process, each campus may submit one nominee to SUNY for consideration. While campuses may permit self-nominations as part of their local process, all submissions to SUNY must:

- Be the campus's sole nominee determined through the campus selection process.
- Be submitted no later than **January 15, 2027**, by the campus-designated submitter via the online Google form available on the webpage for the [SUNY Undergraduate Excellence in Research Award](#) (note: a Google account will be necessary for submission).
- Include endorsement from the campus Chief Academic Officer (or designee) and the nominee's faculty mentor/advisor.
- Provide responses to each question in the nomination form, which will ask about the following:
 - Title and one-paragraph abstract of the research or creative activity
 - Description of the research or creative activity that includes the framing question, purpose/rationale/motivation, methodology, and findings (if the research is in progress, this may include preliminary findings)
 - Relationship between the research or creative activity and the student's academic studies and/or professional goals, with a focus on how the student intends to apply their learning to future pursuits
 - Ways in which the student has shared (or plans to share) the findings of their research or creative activity
 - Listing of other awards or recognitions the student has received for this and/or other research or creative activities
 - Current resume for the student that includes current contact information
 - Brief sample of the student's research or creative activity

Receipt of nominations will be acknowledged electronically. If an acknowledgment has not been received, it is the responsibility of the submitter to contact awards@suny.edu for confirmation. Please maintain records of submissions.

V. Selection Criteria

At SUNY, applications will be evaluated by a review committee based on:

- Quality and originality of the research or creative work
- Significance and impact of the project
- Effectiveness in communicating the project's purpose, methods, and outcomes
- Potential for continued academic or professional achievement

Preference will be given to candidates who are from a low-income background (Pell grant recipients), first-generation college students, AmeriCorps alumni, and/or veterans.

As part of the review process, SUNY will work to ensure that students from a variety of academic disciplines and campus sectors are represented.

VI. Award Recognition

Five awardees will be selected system-wide. Each awardee will:

- Receive a \$1,000 prize
- Be recognized through a SUNY press announcement
- Be honored at the 2027 SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC). Awardees will be invited to present their research at the conference. SURC 2027 will be hosted by Onondaga Community College on April 9, 2027, and Stony Brook University on April 10, 2027.

Notifications of awardee selection are planned to be issued in February 2027.

VII. Additional Information

Awardees may be asked for additional information, including a headshot photo suitable for a press release.

Campuses are encouraged to support their nominee's participation in SURC, even if not selected as an awardee.

Questions may be directed to awards@suny.edu.