Spring 2025 AYURE Grant Competition
Call for Proposals
Deadline: 12:00 PM on Wednesday, November 20, 2024
https://www.newpaltz.edu/research/grants--scholarships/usr_ayure.html

The Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (RSCA) office is happy to announce the Spring 2025 *Academic Year Undergraduate Research Experience* (AYURE) grant program. The AYURE grant will provide funds and support for student-faculty scholarly collaborations during the Spring semester.

We welcome applications from all academic divisions (FPA, LA&S, SOB, SOE, SSE, Library) and support various types of projects. They can be conventional scholarship meant to create new knowledge or works, or apprenticeships meant to train the student on your field's core skills, or applied projects meant to assist a campus of community group. Projects can also be either faculty-driven (i.e., students assisting at a high level on the mentor's scholarship) or student-driven (i.e., students chasing their personal interests). Whatever its form, our main condition is that the project must provide students one-on-one training from the faculty expert, extending their learning and professional development beyond what is possible in the classroom.

Support Available

AYURE grants provide up to $750 (including delivery fees) for project costs. Funds may be used to purchase supplies and services, reimburse travel to research sites, or pay research participants, for example. See our table of allowable purchases for more details. As this grant is meant to foster students' professional growth, funding requests ought to explicitly connect the requested items to student learning outcomes.

Due to constraints in how state funds may be used, this grant cannot provide salary for students or purchase memberships or licenses. For those items, consider applying for funds from our Student Opportunity grant or the Student Association (SA). Projects may receive funding from RSCA and SA concurrently, though their applications are compared to ensure that the requested budgets are distinct.

Requirements

Project Timeline: Although some advance preparation is appropriate, the bulk of the project should be pursued during the semester of the AYURE grant and beyond. We favor projects in which the student is involved in multiple key phases throughout the project.

Mentorship: Mentors must be full-time faculty during the award period. They should provide one-on-one guidance to their student, including meeting at least weekly to discuss progress. Students are often concurrently enrolled in an independent study or thesis with the faculty mentor, but that is not required. Projects usually involve only one faculty mentor and one student, but we have occasionally supported larger projects with two faculty mentors and/or two students.

SRS Participation: Grant agencies typically require a final report after the project's completion. For AYURE grants, that report is the student's presentation of the project at this year's Student Research Symposium (SRS), usually held the last Friday before Spring semester finals. AYURE grant winners (students & faculty) who do not present in the SRS will be ineligible for AYURE awards during the subsequent academic year.

Proposal Format

There is a significant change in how proposals are prepared and submitted - we have shifted to an online Microsoft application form – you can access the application at this link: Spr 2025 AYURE Application

The questions are the same as in previous incarnations (they are included below for reference), the major difference is that instead of page limits, there are now character limits. It is important to note, however, that these new character limits approximate the previous page limit restrictions.

The proposal contains the following parts:
1) *Cover sheet*.
2) *Budget Considerations.* A budget request up to $750 (including delivery charges). We can fund supplies, book, services, software, hardware and other similar items; conference travel (incl. poster printing) is a separate application (STA). A budget totaling $0 is acceptable – for example, should you wish to apply simply for the honor.
3) *Faculty statement*. Faculty mentors should prepare this section. The strongest faculty statements share two qualities. First, as the RSCA Advisory Board is made up of faculty from a range of disciplines, write for an audience that is unfamiliar with the applicant's field of study. Provide context and minimize jargon, for example. Second, provide detailed answers that allow the Board to judge if the project is well-planned, feasible, and aligned with the RSCA's mission (see *Proposal Evaluation* section below). **Please note that there are character count limits for each question, totaling approximately 2 pages worth of text for all questions.**
4) *Student statement*. Students should prepare this section. If two students are working on the project, they should complete this statement together, taking care to identify their respective roles and workload. **Again, there are character count limits for each question. In sum, students have approximately 1 page worth of text.**

Please contact the RSCA Director (Ken Nystrom, x2986, nystromk@newpaltz.edu) with any questions about requirements, budget constraints, etc. If you have not previously won an AYURE or SURE grant, we strongly recommend that you peruse the sample applications on our website.

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be reviewed by the RSCA Advisory Board, a diverse group of faculty whose scholarly expertise is unlikely to be in the applicant's field. We evaluate proposals primarily for their clarity/completeness and fit with the RSCA's mission. Accordingly, we favor proposals that are accessible to all reviewers, allow the student a large role in multiple project phases, identify meaningful learning outcomes, and provide a thoughtful plan to mentor and collaborate with the student. Our website provides an evaluation rubric.

A major RSCA goal is to support a wide range of faculty & academic divisions over time. So if we receive more strong proposals than we can fund, we give higher priority to faculty applicants who have won less RSCA funding in recent years.

Cover Sheet

Principal Investigator
Name:
Department:
Email:
Faculty rank: ☐

Student Investigator(s)
Name:
Major / minor:
Email:
Expected degree (ex, BA, BS, MA) & graduation date:
Total # credits for all courses during the semester of the award:
Is this project for course credit?   Yes ☐   No ☐
    If yes, is the course required by the student's major?   Yes ☐   No ☐
    What is the course name?

Project Title:

Ethical Considerations
1. *Does this work involve human subjects?*   Yes ☐   No ☐
       If yes, has the HREB been notified or has the project been approved?   Yes ☐   No ☐
2. *Does this work involve recombinant DNA?*   Yes ☐   No ☐
       If yes, has the IBC been notified?   Yes ☐   No ☐
3. *Does this work involve non-human vertebrates?*   Yes ☐   No ☐

Agreements

Please indicate your awareness of this grant proposal's requirements by checking each box below. **Applications will be processed only if each box is checked.**

__ We attest that the information in this application is correct.

__ We understand that the faculty statement is limited to approximately two pages, and that the student statement is limited to approximately 1 page. We also understand that applications with longer statements are likely to receive lower priority during the review.

__ We understand that our project, if supported with RSCA funds, must be presented at this year's student research symposium (SRS), held annually in May. If it is not, we will both be ineligible for AYURE grants during the subsequent academic year.

__ We permit the RSCA to include our project and names on any campus-wide emails/websites/brochures that list AYURE winners.

Project Budget Considerations

Note: Per SUNY policy, all non-disposable equipment (electronics, furniture, software, instruments, clothing, etc.) funded by an AYURE or SURE grant is university property and must be kept on campus (typically housed officially in the faculty mentor's department) after the project.

Are you requesting funding (ex, supplies, services, participant payments)?   Yes ☐   No ☐

> *If not, that is fine, you can still apply for an AYURE award even if not requesting funding.*

> *If yes, please provide an <u>itemized</u> list of items, count, and associated costs below in the table below (add rows, as needed).*

> *Include the link to the website that lists the item & cost.*

> *The budget should not exceed $750, including taxes and delivery fees.*

> *Note that, after offering a grant, the RSCA tends not to support changes to the budget.*

Item (& weblink)	Count	Cost
	TOTAL:	

If requesting funds, would the AYURE grant cover all project expenses?   Yes ☐   No ☐

> *If not, identify the additional sources of funding that will be sought.*

<u>Faculty Statement</u>

What is your project's purpose? Provide a BRIEF and clear review (citations <u>not</u> required) of the prior work that led you to the proposed project. Explain how the project could contribute to that body of work. Include any expected outcomes or hypotheses, if applicable.

How will the project be conducted? Summarize any core procedures or activities. Outline your anticipated timeline for each major phase of the project.

What is the student's role in the project? What are the student's qualifications? If there are multiple students on this proposal, address them separately here and justify their separate roles.

What are the project's main learning outcomes for the student? Explain how they extend beyond those achieved by normal course activities in your major.

What are your mentoring goals? What is your meeting schedule? Address safety (laboratory, studio, travel, etc.) or ethical issues too, as appropriate.

How do the requested budget items support the project and the student's learning outcomes? Items are unlikely to be supported unless clearly meant for this specific project and your student's outcomes.

Summarize the work accomplished with AYURE & SURE funding in the past 3 years (since Fall, 2021), regardless of whether it relates to the current project.

<u>Student Statement</u> (may not be cut and pasted from the mentor's section;

Describe your role in achieving the goal(s) of proposed project. If multiple students are involved, describe your roles and workload division here.

Describe the specific methodology you will employ in carrying out this role.

Describe your qualifications to participate in the proposed project.

Describe your plans to meet with your mentor for guidance.

Describe your plans after graduation and how, if at all, your involvement in the proposed work relates to those plans.