Freshman Research Scholars

Oklahoma State University's Freshman Research Scholars program provides about 60 students a $1,000 scholarship and the opportunity to go beyond the classroom and conduct research with experienced faculty.

The priority deadline for Freshman Research Scholars applications for the upcoming academic year is Nov. 1, with a final deadline of Feb. 1. To apply, log in to your completed OSU application and locate a section titled, “Consider Research.” You'll find a link to apply for the Freshman Research Scholars program.

Questions? Contact the Office of Scholar Development at schdev@okstate.edu

5 FACTS ABOUT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT OSU

1. Any incoming freshman can apply to become a Freshman Research Scholar. You can research any subject no matter your major. It's not just labs and test tubes. Have a question? You've got your research opportunity.

2. Research is easier when you're surrounded by faculty who are leading experts in their fields and want to help.

3. Taking part in research impacts your life in many ways. You make long-term connections with faculty and your peers; you also make a contribution inside or outside your discipline.

4. You don't have to be a member of The Honors College. You just have to be intellectually curious, motivated and have a strong work ethic.

5. You have the opportunity to take advantage of tools, labs and bright minds at a comprehensive research university.

"The Freshman Research Scholars program was a key factor in my decision to come to OSU over any other university. As an early introduction to research and a window into what my career as a physicist might look like, it proved to be one of the most enriching experiences of my freshman year."

JESSICA SHIPMAN
Physics

"I was involved in the Agriscience Fair in FFA during high school and I wanted to continue in the research field when I got into college. The Freshman Research Scholars program was the best opportunity I saw to get my foot in the door in collegiate research."

DAWSON HAWORTH
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

"The most valuable lesson I learned from working on my project is that there is always something that can be studied more. The topic I ended up researching is something I knew nothing about before starting, but that goes to show that there is always more that can be learned."

KASSIDY BLISS
Animal Science

"Besides connecting with professors in my department and across the university, I gained knowledge about real-world application through hands-on experiences that I would not have learned in any lecture. I was able to learn material in later courses easier and found myself further ahead than other students due to my research experiences."

BRADEN KELLOGG
Civil Engineering
Freshman Research Experiences

The Relationship between the Built Environment and Healthy Living

MADISON BROOK
College: Human Sciences
Major: Design, Housing, and Merchandising: Interior Design
Faculty Mentor: Gina Peek

"Healthy homes is a very important aspect of interior design, and I wanted the chance to look further into that field. Through this experience I learned that research takes time and patience, but it can, and hopefully will, positively affect the lives of others."

Ethanol Selects for Small Colony Variants from a Hetero-Vancomycin Intermediate Staphylococcus aureus Strain

HADASSAH MARQUART
College: Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Major: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Faculty Mentor: John Gustafson

"The most valuable thing I learned through the Freshman Research Scholars program was that a test or piece of work coming out wrong does not mean you are bad at it or not smart enough for it. Sometimes mistakes happen, or things just don't turn out perfectly, and that is okay. A popular mantra that I have learned is that the research stands for redo, for that exact reason. I learned to be patient, and to be prepared to do things over when they don't work out. Also, sometimes even science can be more of an art: that takes practice, even if you do everything technically correct."

Measuring the Barometric Pressure of Fire Whirls

LUKE STEVENSON
College: Engineering, Architecture and Technology
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Faculty Mentor: Rob Agnew

"Being a Freshman Research Scholar has helped me transition through my freshman year, as it allowed me to see the application of what I was learning in class at the time. This year I learned how to methodically and effectively design an experiment to get the correct data, with minimal error, and with all the necessary baselines included."

Identifying Additional Pathogens Capable of Growing on Stenotrophomonas Isolation Agar

KAYLEA BIXLER
College: Arts & Sciences
Major: Biological Science: Pre-Health Care
Faculty Mentor: Erika Lutter

"Being a member of the Freshman Research Scholars program has allowed me to take part in research during my first year of college—a privilege my peers at other universities could only dream of. I know that my experience as a student would be significantly less interactive without the hands-on learning I get to be a part of in my research lab. This learning through action is not only rewarding, but also has allowed me to make better connections in my classes."

Predicting the Success of a Movie in the Box Office

BRYOR HENSON
College: Spears School of Business
Major: Management Information Systems
Faculty Mentor: Ramesh Sharda

"By using various gathered data, I was able to build a model of how the variables affect the success of a movie based on revenue. I learned how to manage my time and that I cannot do everything by myself. This helped me to learn my limits."

The Reactive Leg Drop: A Simple and Novel Sensory-Motor Assessment to Predict Fall Risk in Older Individuals

TARYN BLACKSTOCK
College: Education, Health and Aviation
Major: Applied Exercise Science
Faculty Mentor: Jason DeFreitas

"I chose my topic by talking to my mentor and having him explain to me all the different studies the graduate students were currently working on to help me decide which I was most interested in. The focus of my topic was studying what the correlation was between the balance assessment and the leg drop between younger and older females, which helped determine if the leg drop could be an efficient test to examine fall risk in older individuals. Freshman Research Scholars gives undergraduate students the chance to do research most people wouldn't have access to until their graduate-level courses. It makes students more prepared and knowledgeable when it comes to research, which is such an amazing growing experience."