

May 2025



Congratulations to the class of 2025. The Office of Undergraduate Research is proud of the hundreds of students who participate in research earning an undergraduate research scholar designation, honors degrees, completed capstones, internships, and funded research opportunities like UROP and SPUR. We have seen the positive impact of research on graduation rates, where 94% of students funded by OUR graduate in 6 years. And we know that research experiences bode well with job opportunities with 80% of students who participate in research finding employment within a year after graduating. But it is not just about the degrees and the jobs. We know that research and the work towards graduation is made possible because of the people, connections, ideas, and experiences made possible here at the U. On behalf of the Office of Undergraduate Research team and family, we congratulate our 2025 graduates. May your inquiries, skills, and connections made possible through research take you far in your journeys beyond the U.

**Annie Isabel Fukushima, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies*  
and *Director, Office of Undergraduate Research*  
The University of Utah

## Congrats 2025 SPUR Scholars

Congratulations to the Office of Undergraduate Research Summer Program for Undergraduate Research

scholars:

**Anya Altangerel**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Mentor: Alysse Loomis, Social Work)

**Basbo Ayelazono**, Dakota State University (Mentor: Samira Shiri, Engineering)

**Ama Baffour**, Howard University (Mentor: Martell Lee Teasley, Social Work)

**Ellie Barnett**, University of Utah (Mentor: Lee Raby, Social and Behavioral Science)

**Rachel Bonney**, Brigham Young University (Mentor: Wendy Zhu, Medicine)

**RaNyia Bowman**, North Carolina A&T (Mentor: Brock O'Neil, Medicine)

**Camryn Carr**, University of Utah (Mentor: Sara Warix, Mines and Earth Sciences)

**Simone Caruthers**, San Diego State (Mentor: Skyler Jennings, Health)

**Mackenzie Dessin**, University of Utah (Mentor: Anandh Babu Pon Velayutham, Health)

**Santi Diaz de Leon Rocha**, University of Utah (Mentor: Alexander Ponette-Gonzalez, Architecture and Planning)

**Courtney Ebert**, Utah Valley University (Mentor: Amandine Chaix, Health)

**Hanna Enos**, University of Pittsburgh (Mentor: Claire Son, Education)

**Colby Estey**, University of Utah (Mentor: Tonie van Dam, Mines and Earth Sciences)

**Elis Foster**, University of Utah (Mentor: Sara Warix, Mines and Earth Sciences)

**Hana Habib**, Wright State University (Mentor: Ashley Dalrymple, Engineering)

**McKay Jones**, Utah Valley University (Julio Facelli, Medicine)

**Megan Jones**, University of Utah (Mentor: Kate Ritterbush, Mines and Earth Sciences)

**Minhong Kim**, Georgia Institute of Technology (Mentor: Haohan Zhang, Engineering)

**Evan Klansnic**, University of Utah (Mentor: Alexander Ponette-Gonzalez, Architecture and Planning)

**Tejus Kotikalapud**, University of Southern Mississippi (Mentor: Ofer Rog, Science)

**Kaitlyn Landers**, University of Utah (Mentor: Jody Reimer, Science)

**Ava Leonelli**, University of Utah (Mentor: Sihem Boudina, Health)

**Nathan Li**, University of Utah (Mentors: Jordan Gerton, Kelby Hahn, Science)

**Carlos Lopez**, University of Utah (Mentor: Monika Lohani, Social and Behavioral Science)

**Natalia Lopez**, University of Utah (Mentor: Ed Munoz, Cultural & Social Transformation)

**Abraham Martinez**, University of Virginia (Mentor: Katie Baucom, Social and Behavioral Science)

**Gavin McLean**, University of Utah (Mentor: Shundana Yusaf, Architecture and Planning)

**Emma McManus**, University of Nebraska Lincoln (Mentor: Nirupama Ramkumar, Medicine)

**Peyton Messina**, University of Utah (Mentor: Abby Pulsipher, Pharmacy)

- Phoebe Ojo**, Howard University (Mentor: Lauri Linder, Nursing)
- Hailey Nam**, University of Utah (Mentor: Lindsay Keegan, Medicine)
- Diego Pacheco-Reyes**, Harvey Mudd College (Mentor: Luiza Aparecido, Science)
- Mayette Pahulu**, University of Utah (Mentor: Will Holland, Medicine)
- Lessly Paulino Izquierdo**, University of Utah (Mentor: Monika Lohani, Social and Behavioral Science)
- Camryn Perry**, North Carolina A&T (Mentor: Will Smith, Medicine)
- Indiana Plant**, University of Utah (Mentor: Lynne Zummo, Education)
- Emma Ravikovitch**, Colby College (Mentor: Adam Hughes, Medicine)
- Chloe Raymond**, University of Utah (Mentor: Bill Anderegg, Science)
- Julia Rzepecka**, University of Utah (Mentor: Chen Wang, Engineering)
- Jailyne Sirmans**, North Carolina A&T (Mentor: Ursula Martinez, Medicine)
- Sydney Smith**, University of Utah (Mentor: Court Strong, Science)
- Vanika Sok**, Lafayette College (Mentors: Sarah Small, Social and Behavioral Science, Rachel Ernst, Library)
- Sophia Terril**, University of Utah (Mentor: Genevieve Albouy, Health)
- Kyndal Ussery**, North Carolina A&T (Mentor: Kelly Baron, Medicine)
- Tori Vega**, University of Georgia (Mentor: Katie Baucom, Social and Behavioral Science)
- Kenny Zhang**, Brigham Young University (Mentor: J. David Symons, Health)

# OUR Events

## Education Series



[Mentoring Across Differences](#)

5/6, 11AM-12PM Virtual



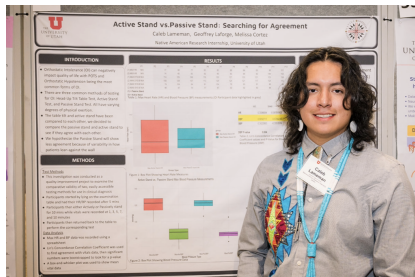
Title IX for Students

5/29 and 6/2, 11AM-12PM on both dates, Virtual



Foundations of Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

6/5, 11AM-12PM Virtual



Data Visualization and Research Posters

6/13, 11AM-12PM Virtual



Introduction to Public Speaking

6/24, 11AM-12PM Virtual





### Being Human in STEM

7/2, 12-1PM Virtual



### Cite Smarter, Not Harder: Tips with AI

7/9, 11AM-12PM Virtual



### NSH Graduate Research Fellowship: Preparing as an Undergrad

7/17, 12-1PM Virtual

Check out our summer virtual education series where we provide content that supports learning about research beyond the classroom. This summer's line up covers a range of topics from mentoring, to ethics, to citational practices, and presenting research. Visit [our.utah.edu/ures](https://our.utah.edu/ures) to see the wide range of content.

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# Scholars' Corner



ACT NOW

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINES APPROACHING

APPLY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

## Dee Foundation

**Deadline: May 31, 2025.**

Students whose research contributes to the wellbeing of the residents of northern Utah encouraged to apply for the [\\$1,200 scholarship](#) made possible by the Dee Foundation.

## UASAL Scholarship

**Deadline: May 31, 2025.**

[Scholarship](#) covers fees UASAL conference registration, hotel accommodations, and a special dinner covered at the conference. In addition to the conference benefits, scholarship mentors also receive award!

# External Opportunities

## FULBRIGHT U.S. STUDENT PROGRAM

EXPLORE THE WORLD

Fulbright is available in over 140 countries to:

- Study for a master's degree
- Conduct research
- Serve as an English Teaching Assistant

Undergraduates and graduates from ALL majors/disciplines are encouraged to apply!

## Application Now Open!

Contact the Office of Nationally  
Competitive Scholarships to learn more!

Website: [nationallycompetitivescholarships.utah.edu](http://nationallycompetitivescholarships.utah.edu)

Email: [competitivescholarships@utah.edu](mailto:competitivescholarships@utah.edu)



## Fulbright

U deadline: August 22, 2025

Fulbright U.S Student Program (2026-2027) application is open, and the Office of Nationally Competitive Scholarships is committed to supporting undergraduate and graduate students and recent alumni who want to apply. Click [here for more info.](#)

## Applying and Need Support?

### Funding Fridays

Funding Fridays (summer) begins on May 9th, 2025! Drop in with your questions about applying for funds, research opportunities, and how to get started any Friday during Summer Semester. 1-2pm [via Zoom](#)

### IRB Lab

We are on a [IRB Lab](#) break from now until August. Please send any queries to [our@utah.edu](mailto:our@utah.edu).

## General Questions

If you have questions about research opportunities, funding, or any of OURs programs make a research advising appointment with the link below.

Make an appointment

Sign-up for the OUR Newsletter here



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