

Award Applications

Bushman Medical Career Research, Michael Guckavan Interdisciplinary Research, and Summer Research Internship

These awards are presented to students exhibiting promising research ability so that they can spend a summer on campus working closely with a faculty member on a research project. This paid program is designed to allow student researchers to devote full-time work on awarded projects and focus on their completion without having to worry about earning money.

Stipend Amounts for Summer 2026

In-Lab Research (Student works at least 25 hours per week in lab with professor):

- **5 weeks** (Summer Session I – May 26- June 26, 2026): Includes **\$1,875** stipend
- **10 weeks** (Summer Sessions I & II – May 26 – July 31, 2026): Includes **\$3,750** stipend
- Student may live off campus or request to live on campus
- For students living on-campus, additional funding will be provided

Remote Research (Student works remotely, supervised by a professor):

- At least **60 hours** of work: Includes **\$800** stipend
- At least **120 hours** of work: Includes **\$1,600** stipend

Eligibility

All criteria below must be met in order for the Review Panel to consider the application.

- The application must be complete and submitted before the deadline (2/16/26).
- The applicant must be a full-time MSMU student with freshman, sophomore, or junior standing (at the time of application) and a declared or intended major in SSMT.
- The applicant must have a cumulative GPA greater than 2.50.
- The applicant must have a faculty mentor in the School of Science, Mathematics & Technology who has agreed to serve as such.
- The applicant must not have received this award previously.

Requirements of the Award

- Students and their faculty mentor are each required to submit to the Dean a 1-2 paragraph reflection on the personal or professional benefits of this experience by August 31 of the award year. These submissions will be used in promotional materials and posted on the School website as a way of highlighting the value of this program.

- Students are required to present the results of their research project at the SPARC Festival in the spring of the year following their research awards or at a regional professional meeting within one year of the award date.

Application Procedure

A complete application will consist of:

I. Application Form

II. Essay (1 page maximum, 1-inch margins, 12-pt font, double-spaced)

Please answer all of the following questions:

- a) Why are you interested in pursuing this independent project?
- b) How will this project challenge you intellectually or otherwise?
- c) How will participation in the [indicate the specific award] benefit and support the attainment of your post-graduate career goals?

III. Project Description: (2 page maximum, 1-inch margins, 12-pt font, double-spaced)

A description of your research project that includes:

- a) Project Title
- b) Clearly stated hypotheses, research question, problem statement, or goals.
- c) A brief description of the methods you will use
- d) Background: Summarize the prior work or current state of knowledge on your research project or topic to place your project in context.
- e) Outcomes: Describe the tangible outcome(s) of your project (for example, report, presentation, phone app, computer program, website, dataset, etc.)? Include an indication of the expected size/length and where it will be submitted, presented, shared, or seen.
- f) Significance: Who else (besides you) will benefit from this project and how will they benefit? For example, are there potential benefits to some segment of society, like Alzheimer's patients, people who are clinically depressed, general public, etc.? Will the project have potential intellectual, academic, societal (medicine, mental health, technology, education, etc.) or environmental (water quality, endangered species, etc.) benefits?

IV. Letter of Recommendation:

Students must seek out a Faculty Mentor for the project and arrange for the Mentor to send a letter of support for the student and his/her project directly to the Dean & the Dean's Assistant by the deadline. The letter should describe the academic promise of the applicant, how beneficial this experience will be for the applicant's academic development, and the likelihood of "success" (defined broadly as either achieving the project goals or making significant progress towards the goals).

Application materials in digital format are due by Monday, February 16, 2026, via email to Marie Lalor (m.j.lalor@msmary.edu), Office of the Dean.