

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
The Donald and Gudrun Fruehling Spring 2026
Undergraduate Research Fellowship

The Donald and Gudrun Fruehling Spring Undergraduate Research Fellowship supports undergraduate research by students who have a declared major in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Each award recipient will have at least one faculty mentor from their academic department who will meet with them weekly to ensure that they meet the benchmarks and help guide their research through to completion. Award recipients are eligible to receive a stipend of \$1500 to be paid to their U-Bill account upon the successful completion of their project. Each awardee will be required to write a research paper (10-15 pages) or complete an applied project with their faculty mentor's guidance and to give a formal public presentation of their results at the annual CSBS Research Conference in April. All projects must be completed by April 1, 2026.

The application deadline is **December 1, 2025**.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- Open to individual undergraduate students with a declared **major** in CSBS.
- Must have completed sophomore year.
- Must not graduate earlier than the end of Spring Semester 2026.
- Must be in good academic standing.
- Only supports research projects with **CSBS faculty members** as primary mentors.
- This is a student award, therefore, the project must be substantially conceived, designed, and implemented by the student. Clear evidence that the project was conceived, designed, and will be implemented by the student must be provided in the application.
- The project must result in original research. Literature reviews are not acceptable.
- Class projects and projects in which the undergraduate student serves as a research assistant on a faculty or graduate student project are generally not eligible for funding.
- Students may receive only one Fruehling award per academic career at UNI.
- Students will not accept any other monetary awards for the same project (except for awards for materials) during the fellowship period. This does not apply to general financial aid or awards such as the Presidential Scholarship.
- Selection of award recipients will be based upon the academic merits of the proposed project and adherence to the submission guidelines.

**CSBS Fruehling Spring 2026
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- APPLICATION -

Please deliver a typed and signed copy of the application cover sheet and supporting materials to the Office of the Dean, CSBS, Sabin 319, Mail Code 0403, by December 1, 2025.

Name of Applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

Student ID Number: _____

Title of Project: _____

Address While at UNI: _____

Phone: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Faculty Mentor(s):

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

Department: _____

Department: _____

I certify that this research has been conceived and designed by me and that it will be implemented by me. I further certify that the application is complete with all areas filled out. I further certify that I will not graduate from UNI before the end of Spring Semester 2026.

Applicant _____ **Date** _____

I certify that this research has been conceived and designed by the student applicant, that it will be implemented by the student applicant, that it meets the eligibility criteria, and that it is feasible. I further certify that the application is complete with all areas filled out. (If there are co-mentors, each needs to sign.)

Faculty Mentor _____ **Date** _____

Faculty Mentor _____ **Date** _____

To the best of my knowledge this research has been conceived and designed by the student applicant, that it will be implemented by the student applicant, that it meets the eligibility criteria, and that it is feasible.

Department Head _____ **Date** _____

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- GUIDELINES -

Please attach the following materials to the cover sheet (typed, double-spaced and not to exceed 750 words):

1. Title of proposal.

2. Proposal description. As faculty from various disciplines will review your proposal, please take care to explain your project in a clear and understandable way with minimal jargon. Include the following six points along with the headers intact for organizational purposes and ease of evaluation.

- a. **Background and problem statement.** Begin with several paragraphs that draw the reader into the project. Describe the problem you are investigating, set that problem in a context, indicate its importance, and show how your study will contribute to an understanding of the stated problem.
- b. **Review of literature.** Summarize research relevant to your problem. Cite (in proper APA or comparable style) and discuss three to five important sources. Demonstrate how your study relates to and builds upon the ideas that you discuss from the relevant research.
- c. **Objectives.** List the primary goals and objectives of your research. If you have a hypothesis or question you are specifically trying to answer, it should be listed and discussed in this section.
- d. **Methodology.** Projects can be of many types: archival or otherwise text-based, data analysis, design, formal-analytic, experimental, qualitative analysis, etc. It is important that you discuss how your methodology fits your problem statement and meets your objectives. For projects involving human subjects, be sure to describe, in detail, the population you plan to work with and the design of your project (e.g., interviews, surveys, participant observation). Explain how you plan to gain trust and/or access to your participants and the kind of environment in which your research will take place. Include examples of survey instruments and interview questions if they will be used in your study.
- e. **Timeline.** Provide an estimation of when essential benchmarks will be met. Benchmarks include, but are not limited to, a complete literature review, a well-designed methodology, satisfactory collection of data, the critical examination and analysis of the data, a discussion of the results of the data analysis, concluding remarks or statement, and submission of the completed project.
- f. **Plans to present or publish your findings.** All recipients will present their research at the CSBS Research Conference in April 2026. If you plan to publish your results, indicate journals that might accept your article. Note: When presenting or publishing research you are required to indicate that partial funding was obtained from CSBS.

3. This project requires IRB approval. True or False.

(circle the correct answer and provide requested information)

- If true, attach the Human Participants Approval letter from the IRB with you listed as the primary investigator to the back of this proposal.
- If IRB approval is pending, please attach a copy of your IRB application.
- If false, clearly state why it does not require IRB approval.

4. Copy of most recent transcript.