

What is the PsychDrive Undergraduate Research Fellowship?

The PsychDRIVE Undergraduate Research Fellowship is a \$500 award to support underrepresented students who are interested in pursuing research opportunities in Psychology. Fellows are expected to complete an independent research project under the supervision of a faculty mentor with an affiliation in the Department of Psychology. Funds will go directly to the fellow (i.e., the funds are not to pay for research activities). Applications are due **Friday, March 17th**. Awardees will be notified March 31st and funds will be awarded soon thereafter.

Who may apply?

To be eligible for the fellowship students must:

- Be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student on the Oakland campus
- Have earned at least 12 credits at the University of Pittsburgh
- Have a 3.00 cumulative GPA (You will not necessarily be disqualified if your GPA is below 3.00, but it is important to address this in your professional statement.)
- Identify a faculty or graduate student mentor in the Department of Psychology
 - Please see research opportunities here:
<http://www.psychology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/experiential-learning/directed-research/opportunities>
- Be a member of one or more of the following groups whose underrepresentation in the American professoriate has been severe and longstanding:
 - Alaska Native (Aleut, Eskimo, or other Indigenous People of Alaska)
 - Black/African American
 - Hispanic/Latino/a
 - Native American/American Indian
 - Native Pacific Islander (Hawaiian/Polynesian/Micronesian)
 - First-generation college student as defined by neither parent having a bachelor's degree

How to Apply

Please (1) complete the Google form materials, and (2) send supporting materials to Jamie Amemiya:

Via Google form; Link: <http://tinyurl.com/PsychDriveFellowshipApp>

1. A completed Google form **application**.
2. In this form, a **professional statement** explaining motivation to perform research in psychology (500 words maximum).
3. In this form, a **research proposal** for the type of research project you'd like to pursue (500-750 words).
**Please review the guide questions below before writing your statement and research proposal. These questions should be discussed with your faculty mentor prior to submission.

Via email to Jamie Amemiya at jaa141@pitt.edu:

1. **Letter of support** from your faculty or graduate student mentor (your mentor may email the letter).

2. Electronic copy of your unofficial **transcript**.

Below you will find some suggested questions that you may want to address in your statement and research proposal. Keep in mind that you should not simply list your responses to these questions. These are guiding questions to help you identify what you'd like to address.

Professional Statement

- Describe how you foresee your fellowship work preparing you for your academic or career aspirations. You might discuss ways that this fellowship will support your academic or professional development by, for example, allowing you to hone in on and investigate a specific, well-defined research topic or increasing your exposure to and deepening your understanding of a field of research. However, you might also discuss ways that this fellowship will support your broader career goals (e.g., providing you with the research experience that will make you competitive for graduate school).

Research Proposal

- Explain your background and general interest in the research area. How did you learn about the topic area? Is this a new interest for you or a topic that you've been interested in for some time? Your discussion here could remain at a general level (e.g. a research interest in the area of "children's moral development") or your interest could be in a more specific topic (e.g. "an observational study of preschoolers' altruistic behavior"). Remember that the point of the fellowship is that you do **not** have to explain, at this stage, a specific research question or methodology underlying your interest. Rather, that will come later as a product of your fellowship work.
- Make the case for the importance of the research area you are targeting. Does it engage topics of general societal importance? Is it a particularly hot area of research within one or more academic fields? Does its interdisciplinary character invite unique research opportunities?