

**Provost's Initiative on Undergraduate Research
Undergraduate Research Collaboration Award Application
Spring 2026 Awards**

Due: Monday, October 6, 2025 by Midnight

Grant Goals: The goal of the Provost's Initiative for Undergraduate Research is to facilitate the expansion and development of faculty mentored, undergraduate research experiences across schools and departments. By providing mutually beneficial intensive faculty-student collaborations, the program intends to foster the development of critical thinking and intellectual maturity through faculty-student work on collaborative research and/or creative projects. At the same time, faculty members receive the benefit of seeing their research agenda move forward during the semester.

Grant Details: Full-time faculty members are invited to apply for support to collaborate with an undergraduate on a co-designed research project during the spring semester. Students are expected to meet and work with the faculty member weekly. Students will enroll in a 493 course and will earn a minimum of 1 credit for their work on the project and produce an artifact (research paper, lit review, or presentation etc.) appropriate to the discipline. (Note 1 credit hour typically requires 45 hours of work on the project, which includes faculty meeting time). Faculty members who are new to undergraduate research at University of Portland will receive \$1500 for mentoring the student in research, while experienced faculty members will be compensated \$1000.

Student Selection: Faculty who have been awarded a Provost's Initiative grant will be asked to submit information about the research project to the Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (USE) office and the opportunity will be posted to Handshake for student applications. Faculty will then have the opportunity to select their student collaborators from submitted applications.

Grant Requirements: Faculty members who receive the grant are required to:

- Submit the Undergraduate Research Handshake Posting form provided by the USE office in a timely manner and select students in late November/early December
 - Consider and prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion when selecting student researchers
- Complete, and ensure student researcher completes the Undergraduate Research Learning Protocol
 - Complete the Responsible Conduct Tutorial through CITI
 - Utilize and comply with the Learning Agreement
- Work collaboratively with the student on the project and meet at least weekly with the student researcher to discuss progress and concerns on the project
- Attend two 1-hour workshops to discuss your project and learn about successful mentoring strategies

Application Information:

Please use the link on the UGR website to submit your application:

<https://www.up.edu/undergraduateresearch/provosts-initiative/index.html>

Applications are read by a committee of faculty members from many different disciplines, so please address your application to a general audience.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Does the proposal clearly explain the collaborative project, its outcomes and how the student will benefit?
- Is the work plan adequately detailed and sufficient to advance the learning experience for the student?
- Does the proposal convincingly give confidence that it will be an effective faculty-student collaboration?
- Does the proposal meet one or more of the priorities?

Priorities: In light of the priorities of the program (i.e. expand the pool of faculty mentors and students exposed to undergraduate research), the following priorities will be used to determine funding.

- Faculty members who are new to undergraduate research at University of Portland*
- Faculty members who have not received previous Provost Initiative grants
- Projects that will have significant impact on student development
- Projects that are conducive to including a student new to undergraduate research (i.e. no prior experience at University of Portland)
- Projects that have not or will not receive stipend support for the spring semester (i.e. projects where faculty are supported at the department level are not eligible).

Projects that do not meet any of the priorities will not be funded.

*Note: while faculty members who are new to undergraduate research at UP are prioritized, all faculty with qualifying projects are welcome to apply

Questions about this program may be sent to Cara Hersh, Ph.D. (ur@up.edu), Assistant Provost and chair of the Undergraduate Research Advisory Board. All proposals will be evaluated by a subcommittee of the Undergraduate Research Advisory Board.
