**Funding Undergraduate Research**

**Grants at WCU**

**Finding Grant Funding for Undergraduate Research**

Although many research projects require no more than time, a good notebook or computer, and hours in the library, some will inevitably require funding for supplies, travel costs, or other expenses. Although academic departments sometimes have a small amount of money budgeted for undergraduates, **The Honors College** is a major funding resource.  You do not have to be an Honors student to receive undergraduate research funding from The Honors College; funding is open to all full-time undergraduate students at WCU.

Another important source for funding projects may be found in the **Office for Undergraduate Studies**, headed by Dr. Carol Burton, the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Studies.  There is also a wide world of external grant money out there waiting to be used for projects of merit.

**Undergraduate Academic Projects Grants**

This fund, available between October and March every year, supports student expenses for supplies, equipment, or travel for undergraduate projects.

For more information visit, <http://www.wcu.edu/academics/departments-schools-colleges/the-honors-college/ugres/undergraduate-academic-project-grants-program.asp>

**External Grants**

The first place to go to in the quest for grant money is the [Research Administration Office](http://www.wcu.edu/academics/research/index.asp) at WCU; they must not only approve all external grant money (funding from a source outside of WCU), but they are also the best resource on campus for finding and applying for external grant monies.

**External Grant Funding Information from Sources on the Web**

1. **Grants.gov**: a database of all grants available from the US Government.

http://www.grants.gov/

1. **The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance**: a database of funding offered by

 the federal government for any citizen with any need, including students who

want to do research. http://www.cfda.gov/

1. **The Community of Science**: provides not only funding opportunities, but also

information and resources for anyone doing any sort of scientific

research. http://www.cos.com/

1. **Fundsnet Services Online**: provides funding information for nearly every

discipline. http://www.fundsnetservices.com/

1. **Grants Resource Center’s Grant Search**: a database of grant money specifically

for undergraduate students. It does require a password, as it is a service WCU

subscribes to, so go to http://www.wcu.edu/6789.asp for the link to the site, and

follow the instructions to receive your login information.

1. **GrantsNet**: a division of *Science* magazine dedicated to the funding of research

and training in the sciences.

 *http*://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/funding?CFID=1123350&CFTOKEN=7555

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**Other Scholarships and Grants**

* Ford Foundation Predoctoral and Dissertation Fellowships for Minorities:

Available to seniors who are US citizens planning to enroll in research-based

doctoral programs in a wide variety of fields and are also members of any of the

following ethnic groups: Alaskan native, Native American Indian, Black/African

American, Mexican American/Chicanos, Native Pacific Islander, or Puerto

Rican. <http://national-academies.org/fellowships>

* Fulbright Grants: Fulbright Grants are available to graduating students who

propose a clear program of study to be carried out in a particular academic

setting abroad. The location must be essential to the research project. Fluency in

the host language is preferred, and a strong background in American culture and

host current events are critical for selection (WCU contact is Dean Brian

Railsback at The Honors College, 828.227-7383).

http://www.fulbrightonline.org/us

* National Science Foundation: Three-year graduate research fellowships in

science, mathematics, engineering, and social sciences are awarded for study

and research leading to master's or doctoral degrees in mathematical, physical,

biological, engineering, and behavioral and social sciences, including the history

of science and the philosophy of science, and to research-based PhD degrees in

science education. The stipend is $14,000 for a twelve-month tenure and tuition

waiver at US institutions. A $1,000 international research travel allowance is also

available. Senior/US citizen/US national/Resident alien.

http://www.nsfgrfp.org/

* Plum Youth Grants: Plum Youth Grants are given to people under the age of

25 who take action to make a difference and change the world. If your

undergraduate research project is of this magnitude, explore this website.

http://www.dosomething.org/grants

* GrantsNet: GrantsNet is a search engine sponsored by the Science

Journal. This database contains hundreds of national and international grants

that can be discovered by typing in your research topic in the search query. This

is a great place to begin looking for grants.

http://www.grantsnet.org/

* Organization of American States Scholarship: The OAS program of scholarship

and training assists member states with their efforts in human resource

development. The OAS is committed to identifying and implementing strategies

for increasing access to higher education. Some OAS scholarships can be used

for undergraduate research and graduate study.

http://www.educoas.org/portal/en/oasbecas/types.aspx?culture=en&navid=44/