



**FSU College of Medicine Summer Research Fellowship Program
Policies and Proposal Submission Requirements
2025**

The FSU College of Medicine encourages medical students at all levels to seek research opportunities that will enhance their scholarly experiences and develop and refine their scientific and clinical interests. The College of Medicine Summer Research Fellowship (SRF) Program awards **\$5,000** stipends to medical students participating in research with the assistance of an FSU faculty mentor in the summer between the first year and second year of medical school. The fellowships provide students with opportunities, encouragement, and support in research endeavors. College of Medicine SRF proposals and supporting documents are due by **9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025**. Submissions must be emailed to Research@med.fsu.edu.

Students can work with any FSU faculty mentor from colleges across the university. Non-FSU faculty are not eligible to serve as mentors for the FSU College of Medicine SRF Program.

General Description

Students who are awarded the College of Medicine Summer Research Fellowship agree to work under a faculty mentor to conduct full-time research over the summer, submit a summary paper in early September 2025, and present their projects to a College of Medicine audience in mid-Fall 2025.

Students may join existing projects or create their own projects after identifying an appropriate FSU faculty mentor.

The number of Summer Research Fellowships is limited, and the selection process is based on the evaluation criteria provided with the proposal guidelines below. Research should be conducted under the mentorship of an FSU faculty member. Only one student per research project will be considered for funding.

Proposals must be written by students and not by faculty mentors or research support staff/personnel, though faculty mentors should certainly read the proposals (and should make content and editing suggestions where necessary). Any suspected plagiarism (including failure to provide proper citations) will disqualify a proposal and result in referral for violation of professionalism standards.

Proposals and all supporting documents must be submitted to the College of Medicine Division of Research and Graduate Programs by the deadline. No exceptions will be made.

Required Training in Research

For human subjects research, documentation of FSU Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) training for the protection of human subjects in research must be included with the College of Medicine SRF proposal. CITI training is available at no cost through the College of Medicine [Division of Research](#). All first-year medical students will complete this online training during the Host-Defense block.

For animal and wet lab research,* animal, lab safety, hazardous waste, and BSL2 training may be required prior to the start of any research and is offered through the [FSU Office of Environmental Health and Safety](#). Students should be advised by their faculty mentors about which trainings are necessary, depending on the research proposed. Animal and wet lab research training can be time intensive, and these trainings are generally offered on a set schedule. While documentation of these trainings is not required in order to submit a proposal to the College of Medicine SRF Program, the fellowship will not be funded until documentation is received. And certainly, documentation of completed training is required before any animal or wet lab research is conducted.

Funding Conditions

For projects requiring IRB, animal and web lab training, or other institutional oversight approval: The SRF Committee requires status updates in April and May. The Committee may withhold funding from projects that do not demonstrate substantial progress toward securing the appropriate approvals in the 2 months leading up to the start of summer research.

Note: The Summer Research Fellowship is considered an award and thus may impact financial aid. For questions please contact Ryan Mullins.

Proposal Guidelines

Required Proposal Items

- A proposal abstract. This document should provide a brief summary (approximately 200 words) of the proposed research project. See [American College of Physicians' "Writing a Research Abstract"](#) for format ideas. **Note:** The abstract doesn't count toward the proposal text word count.
- The proposal document. The proposal text should be well written and consist of each of the numbered sections listed below. The length of the proposal text should be 1,500–2,000 words (excluding the abstract).
- Proposal Submission Form.
- Faculty mentor curriculum vitae (CV). (NIH biosketch is sufficient.)
- *For human subjects research*, CITI training completion document.
- *For animal and wet lab research*, a statement acknowledging the need for training, including which trainings(s) and a timeline for completing the training(s).

Required Sections of the Proposal Text

The proposal text must address each of the topics listed below; the number and title of each section should be exactly as listed.

1. Significance of the problem / issue to be addressed (500 words maximum).

Using support from the literature (references must be included):

- Describe the problem/issue the proposed research project will address.
- Discuss why the problem/issue is important/significant.

2. Primary goal(s) / objective(s).

Describe the goals/objectives of the research project, including the research question(s), aim(s), and/or hypothesis(es).

3. Activities to be undertaken.

Provide a clear and detailed description of the research activities that will take place during the project period: approximately mid-May to mid-August 2025. Specific dates will vary depending on your summer clinical practicum schedule. Be sure to describe each of the items listed below, provided that they are related to your proposed research project. This should be the most substantial part of the proposal and needs to address all relevant bullet points. **Note:** Description of very specific methodology for existing projects can be quoted from other sources, with appropriate attribution (e.g., grant proposals, IRB application, or published work). For example, you may provide a detailed description of an experiment or specific animal model (with references included); however, you should not copy and paste text that addresses all of points below.

- Study participant(s)
- Setting(s) in which the study will take place
- Intervention or phenomena that will be examined
- Research design and procedures
- Types of data that will be collected or otherwise generated
- Measures, instruments, or other quantitative or qualitative methodologies to be used in collecting/generating the data
- Strategies, techniques, or theoretical frameworks to be used for analyzing/interpreting the data
- Planned data analysis

4. Timeline.

Provide a timeline that matches the activities described.

5. Student's role.

Clearly describe your contribution(s) to the research project, including your contribution(s) to one or more of the following areas:

- Conception and design of project
- Protocol development, acquisition of data, protocol submission to institutional review boards (e.g., FSU IRB for human subjects research), site negotiation, data collection and management, analysis and interpretation of data

6. Faculty mentor.

Briefly describe why your faculty mentor is well-suited to working with you on this project.

7. Relevance to the FSU College of Medicine mission.

Briefly describe the research project's relevance (if any) to the College of Medicine mission.

Note: While not required, additional consideration may be given to research that aligns well with the college's mission to serve elder, rural, minority, and underserved populations.

Summer Research Fellowship Criteria for Evaluating Proposals

Proposals will be judged in light of each of the criteria listed below.

- Is the abstract well written, and does it match the proposed project?
- Is the proposal well written?
- How important/significant is the problem/issue being addressed?
- Are the goal(s)/objective(s) of the proposed research project clearly explained?
- Do the research question(s), aim(s), and/or hypothesis(es) align well with the goal(s)/objective(s) of the research project?
- Is the description of the proposed activities clear and detailed with respect to each of the following (as related to the proposed research)?
 - Study participant(s)
 - Setting(s) in which the study will take place
 - Intervention or phenomena that will be examined
 - Research design and procedures
 - Types of data that will be collected or otherwise generated
 - Measures, instruments, or other quantitative or qualitative methodologies to be used in collecting/generating the data
 - Strategies, techniques, or theoretical frameworks to be used for analyzing/interpreting the data
 - Data analysis plan
- Are the proposed activities well aligned with the research project's goal(s)/objective(s) and research question(s), aim(s), and/or hypothesis(es)?
- Do the proposed activities seem feasible to conduct within the summer-long project period (mid-May to mid-August 2025)?
- Will the student play a significant role in the research project?
- Is the faculty mentor a good "fit" for the proposed research?
- How relevant is the research project to College of Medicine mission?