



## **Dean of Academic Life and Donor-Funded Student Summer Research Grants Faculty Sponsor Guidelines**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Dean's Student Summer Research Grant is to encourage students to engage in scholarship, research, or creative activity which furthers their academic interests and results in publication, performance, or exhibition. The Grant gives students the opportunity to propose and carry out a project independently. Projects generally are expected to be eight weeks in length with the work done during the summer.

Faculty sponsorship and engagement are required. The research project must be the student's principal activity during the grant period. Students must submit an application together with the name of their faculty sponsor, and sponsors must add their letter of support in the appropriate text box on the Application JotForm by the deadline.

Proposals are due by February 23, 2024, awards are announced in late March, and work usually occurs during June and July. Students must enroll in a summer course through the Registrar, and sponsors are encouraged to confirm with students that they have done this. In general, the project should be completed or in its final stages by the end of the grant period. Grantees present the results of their work at a poster session in the Fall semester. Arrangements may be made for performances or exhibitions.

### **Eligibility**

Current Muhlenberg students who are rising sophomores, juniors or seniors, and who will be enrolled full-time in the subsequent Fall semester, are encouraged to apply. While there is no minimum grade point requirement to apply, successful candidates should demonstrate knowledge in their proposed area of research and clearly state how the research supports

their academic aspirations. Students must be self-motivated and be able to work well independently.

### **Award**

The grant is for a \$3,000 stipend for eight weeks of research, paid to the student through the regular College payroll process. Students with these awards receive free shared campus housing for the duration of their research. A room deposit is required. The student also earns one course unit of academic credit (tuition waived), which is rostered as an independent study. If the award is for a four-week project, then the stipend, housing, and course credit are adjusted accordingly.

### **Support Letter**

In your letter of support for the student applicant, please address the following:

1. Is the student's project as described in the proposal feasible? Can significant progress be made in the 8-week period of the grant?
2. What do you judge to be the significance of the project?
3. What distinguishes this work from that of a usual independent study? In what way does it merit a grant?
4. What personal characteristics does the student possess that make you confident they can successfully meet the stated goals?