

Evaluation Criteria

The criteria listed here will be used to evaluate undergraduate research proposals.

- Is the science sound and of high quality?
- Are there clearly stated outcomes?
- Does the proposed project address problems of importance to agriculture, the food industry, the environment, or related social sciences?
- Will the proposed research be likely to produce tangible results within the project period (e.g., within the beginning and ending dates and during the time allotted to spend in the laboratory)?
- Is the written quality of the proposal appropriate?
- Is the strength of the faculty collaborator's letter of recommendation appropriate?

Grant Awards

Within the limits of available funds, awards will be made to applicants whose proposals are judged most meritorious under the evaluation criteria and procedures defined. OARDC funds will be available to students based on the start date of the project. The date specified as the beginning of the project period shall not be later than 15 days after the beginning of a quarter or semester.

Awards will be announced after March 2012.

Students must turn in a time sheet signed by their faculty collaborator every other week. Wages will be paid every other week as well. Students who receive an award and complete a research project are required to enroll in an Individual Studies course with their faculty collaborator. Students must be registered for this course during the quarter or semester following the completion of the research.

Individual Studies and Final Report

A research project report must be completed and will fulfill the requirements of an Individual Studies course. The number of credit hours will be set by the faculty collaborator. Reports should follow the format of scientific journal articles in the field selected. Collaborating faculty members can supply students with examples of these articles.

Student researchers must write the report with the collaborating faculty member serving as an advisor/ editor. In some cases, these articles may be suitable for publication. Final reports must be submitted to the OARDC Director's Office no later than the last day of classes of the quarter or semester in which the independent study is completed and within one year of the award date.

Acknowledgments

All publications and posters resulting from work done using SEEDS funding are required to include the following acknowledgment:

"This research has been supported by funds appropriated by the Ohio General Assembly to The Ohio State University, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center."

All forms are available on the web at:
<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/seeds/>



OARDC Research Committee Members

Larry Antosch, *Ohio Farm Bureau*

Imed Dami, *Horticulture and Crop Science*

Richard Dick, *School of Environment and Natural Resources*

Rob Fisher, *Ohio Department of Agriculture*

Brian McSpadden Gardener, *Plant Pathology, Chair*

Dennis Hall, *Ohio Bioproducts Innovation Center*

Earl Harrison, *Education and Human Ecology*

Chang-Won Lee, *Food Animal Health Research Program*

Peter Ling, *Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering*

Andrew Michel, *Entomology*

Gary Rawlings, *TECH Columbus*

Brian Roe, *Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics*

Deborah Stinner, *Organic Food and Farm Educational Research*

Hua Wang, *Food Science and Technology, Co-Chair*

Macdonald Wick, *Animal Sciences*

TBD, *Human and Community Resource Development*

F. William Ravlin, *Associate Director and Administrative Advisor, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Director's Office (Ex officio)*

Steven A. Slack, *Director, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (Ex officio)*



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The OARDC Research Enhancement
Competitive Grants Program



FY 2012

Director's Undergraduate Research Competition

Request for Proposals

Deadline—5 p.m.

January 5, 2012



Request for Proposals

This is a request for submission of proposals to the SEEDS: Director's Undergraduate Research Competition for Fiscal Year 2012. This program is designed to provide undergraduate students with in-depth research experience. Students selected to participate will receive up to \$2,800 for wages and applicable fringe benefits and \$500 for supplies and travel.

Oversight for the competition is provided by the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) Director's Office with consultation from the OARDC Research Committee, which has representation from faculty and private industry. All questions regarding funding opportunities should be referred to:

SEEDS Program Coordinator

Lori Kaser, Grant Development Support Unit

Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center

The Ohio State University

OARDC Director's Office

209 Research Services Building

1680 Madison Avenue

Wooster, OH 44691-4096

Phone: 330-263-3647

E-mail: seeds@osu.edu

Objectives of the Undergraduate Research Competition

The objectives of this program are to:

- Provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to gain experience with research methods in the agricultural and environmental sciences, human ecology, and related social sciences.
- Stimulate faculty-undergraduate collaborations and mentoring of students by Ohio State faculty.
- Help identify students who have the potential for graduate school and research careers.

Who Is Eligible?

To be eligible for this program, students must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be enrolled in one of these colleges:
 - Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences
 - Biological Sciences
 - Education and Human Ecology.
- Have a faculty collaborator (advisor) with an OARDC or CFAES appointment.
- Have not received a previous RECGP Director's Undergraduate Research Grant.
- Have completed their first year of studies and be in good academic standing.

DEADLINE:

5 p.m.

January 5, 2012

No exceptions.

Proposal Format and Submission

Proposals must be submitted online by 5 p.m. on January 5, 2012. Online submission requires that you prepare your proposal as a PDF file. Proposals should

be set to print on standard 8.5- by 11-inch paper with single-spaced printing, 1-inch margins, and 12-point font. All pages except the cover page should be numbered at the bottom center of the page.

The items listed here should be included in the PDF file.

- **One fully completed information form and the course transcripts (a courtesy copy of course transcripts can be obtained by printing a copy of your Advising Report from <http://buckeyelink.osu.edu>).**
- **The faculty letter of reference from the faculty collaborator.**

Content of Proposals

Proposals are limited to a maximum of five pages. The five-page limit applies to the **Introduction; Problem Identification and Justification; Hypothesis and/or Objectives; Materials and Methods; and Literature Cited**. Appendices are not allowed. Any tables, figures, or photos should also fall within the five-page limit. Proposals exceeding the page limit will be returned without review.

A. Cover Page: A sample cover page is available on the SEEDS web site.

B. Contents: Include page numbers for the required sections outlined here.

C. Introduction: Evaluates and cites previous work on the problem and the present outlook on the problem.

D. Problem Identification and Justification: Why the study is being proposed.

E. Hypothesis and/or Objectives: Specific questions that will be addressed by the research.

F. Materials and Methods: Describes the detailed process that will be used to complete the investigation, including what equipment, materials, and supplies will be used, and, if necessary, what travel will be involved.

G. Literature Cited: This section should list only those articles, books, or reports that are used in the proposal itself. References should be presented in an accepted journal format.

H. Location, Facilities, and Equipment: Where the research will be conducted and what equipment and facilities will be available to do the research. Research projects are not restricted to the Columbus or Wooster campuses. However, they must be conducted under the direct supervision of the faculty collaborator.

I. Time Line: This section can be short and should outline what amount of time will be spent in the laboratory and what portion of time will be spent focused on each objective. Budgets should begin after May 2012, and projects should be completed within one year.

J. Budget Form: All proposals must include an itemized budget. A budget form is available on the SEEDS web site. This budget should indicate materials, supplies, travel, and other expenses that will be required to complete the research. In some cases, the collaborating faculty member may provide resources (e.g., chemicals, office supplies, etc.) to the project. The approximate cost of these materials should be indicated in a separate column on the form.

Once your proposal is prepared, simply go to the web site — <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/seeds/> — Click on the student investigators tab and follow the appropriate link.

NOTE: The letter of reference should include specific information pertinent to the student's abilities and background; significance of the project; method of approach; an indication of the advisor's approval of the student's outlined time to be spent in the laboratory and that the advisor agrees to work with the student; a statement regarding the potential for the student to achieve the anticipated results within the project period; and an indication that the location, facilities, and supplies are available. Letters should be detailed. Faculty should prepare letters of reference only after consultation with the student regarding his/her project and after a careful review of the research proposal. Letters of reference are to be from the student's OARDC/CFAES advisor.