



CAL POLY
Bailey College of
Science & Mathematics

Frost Research Scholarship

Application Instructions

The Frost Research Scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students who have an interest in and commitment to original science and/or mathematics-based research. The intended research faculty mentor and the undergraduate student must jointly submit the nomination. For more information, including selection criteria and expectations, please refer to the attached scholarship description.

Students should submit the completed nomination **by Friday, March 20th** via email to rkbrar@calpoly.edu. For questions and additional information please contact Phil Bailey, Director of the Frost Fund pbailey@calpoly.edu or Ruzena Brar. If you do not receive an e-mail confirming receipt of your application within two business days, please re-send your application.

Note to faculty mentors: If a faculty mentor nominates multiple students, each nominee will be evaluated individually based on the strength of their application. By nominating a student, you are committing to mentor them in summer research, starting with the 2026 Frost Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP), and during the academic year for the duration of their scholarship.

Note on Frost SURP 2026: students who wish to participate in the 2026 Frost SURP regardless of whether they are selected for this scholarship must apply for Frost SURP through their department. Each department manages its own application process and deadline; please contact the appropriate department for details. Students selected for the Frost Research Scholarship are guaranteed to receive a spot in Frost SURP in 2026, which will run for a minimum of 8 weeks during a 8.5-week window beginning with Monday 6/15 (the Monday after Commencement) and ending Wednesday, 8/12 (faculty begin fall term Monday, 8/17; and classes start Monday, 8/24). If possible, students are strongly advised not to work or take classes during Frost SURP.



Frost Research Scholarship

Application Form

Undergraduate Student Nominee

- Name:
- Major:
- E-mail:

Faculty Mentor Nominator:

- Name:
- Department:
- E-mail:

Please answer each question below briefly and individually:

Faculty Mentor Questions

1. Please provide a one-sentence project title.
2. Provide a brief description (2-4 sentences maximum) of the project(s) in which your Frost Research Scholar nominee will be engaged if selected.
3. Please describe how your group's undergraduate research has received external validation, and your plans to seek external validation for this nominee's research.
4. Please describe your research mentorship with the nominee to date.
5. Describe why this nominee is a strong candidate for a Frost Research Scholarship.

Nominee Questions

1. Please describe why you are interested in participating in research with your faculty mentor as part of a research team.
2. Describe how this scholarship would impact your ability to participate in research.
3. Please list employment, co-curricular, or extracurricular activities in which you have participated while at Cal Poly or, alternatively, submit a brief resume.
4. What are your current intentions for post-graduate education and/or your eventual career path?



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Frost Research Scholarship Information

Scholarship Description

- Established with a CSU-record setting donation in 2017, the William and Linda Frost Fund (Frost Fund) was created to enhance the Bailey College of Science and Mathematics' reputation "as outstanding and nationally recognized in undergraduate academic and student research programs." A Cal Poly alumnus (Biochemistry 1972), Mr. Frost credits undergraduate research for his success in industry. The Frosts are the lead donors to the William and Linda Frost Center for Research and Innovation, building 181.
- The scholarship is intended to encourage and support undergraduate students in conducting original research potentially capable of eventual external validation.
- Typically awarded for two years, starting with a student's third year at Cal Poly. Exceptions can be made for fourth-year students, and for second-year students who demonstrate an early interest, ability and commitment to research. Transfer students are eligible and are encouraged to apply.
- The scholarship is intended for Bailey College undergraduate students, but in special circumstances can be awarded to undergraduates in majors outside of the College working with a Bailey College faculty member. Bailey College majors can work with faculty members outside of the College as long as the research project is science and mathematics based.
- Scholarship amount is currently \$10,000 per year, along with guaranteed summer research with a \$4,500 Frost Summer Undergraduate Research Award for the duration of the scholarship. Scholarship recipients are expected to enroll in two units of supervised research with the faculty mentor each semester. The faculty mentor will receive a \$1,500 summer stipend during the summer quarters in which the scholarship awardee participates in the Frost summer research program. The faculty mentor will receive .67 weighted teaching units (WTU) of assigned time during each year of the scholarship period to support mentorship of the scholarship recipient, in addition to the WTUs faculty may receive from students enrolling in supervisory courses (subject to departmental caps on such by-arrangement WTUs).

Selection Criteria

- Demonstrated interest and ability in, and commitment to, undergraduate research.
- Has joined or is in the process of being accepted into a research group.
- Strong academic record, particularly in the major; minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Anticipated research projects are well defined and have the potential for external validation, such as peer-reviewed publications.
- Intention to pursue opportunities for graduate schools, professional schools or employment after graduation.

Selection Process

- Interested students submit applications jointly with their faculty mentors.
- The Bailey College Dean's Office will appoint a committee to review applications and make selections based on the above-mentioned criteria. If a faculty member nominates multiple students, nominations will be evaluated based on the strength of each application in meeting the selection criteria.
- Selection notifications will be sent to all applicants in early April.

Expectations

- Commitment 10 hours per week to research (except during finals) consistent with the required registration for two units of supervised research each term. Special opportunities during the academic year, such as a one term study abroad, may be supported by the scholarship with prior approval.
- Register for 12 units each quarter or a minimum of 36 per academic year. Continued academic progress towards degree with good academic performance (3.0 or higher). Generally, on track to four-year graduation.
- Research of a quality that progresses the project to conclusions, and adherence to good research and safety practices as well as department, college and university regulations.
- Participation in the Frost Summer Undergraduate Research Program or in external professional internships, research at other institutions, companies or government agencies and programs such as the NSF-REU. Exceptions can be made for financial or family needs, or programs such as study abroad.
- Attend Frost Research Scholarship events (typically two per year); meet with Frost Fund director periodically.