

2026 UWF NeuroNauts Application

Paper or Email Version

This application is intended for high school students from Escambia and Santa Rosa counties in Florida to apply for the NeuroNauts program at the University of West Florida (Pensacola campus) for the Summer of 2026. For more information about this program, please visit the program website.

The 2026 UWF NeuroNauts program dates are June 1 through July 24. Program hours will be Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participating students *must* participate in the entirety of the program; therefore, if you have travel or other plans that would prevent your full engagement in the eight weeks of the program, you are not eligible to participate.

Eligibility requirements: It is anticipated that eight (8) students will be selected for the program. Students must be rising high school juniors or seniors during the program (Summer 2026) and enrolled in a high school in Escambia or Santa Rosa counties in Florida.

The application deadline is April 1, 2026. As part of the application, you will be asked to provide the name and contact information of a high school teacher or counselor who can write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. Please note that you should contact your teacher/counselor in advance of this deadline and let them know that we anticipate contacting them directly on April 2 to request that they submit these letters. Alternatively, your teacher/counselor can email us a letter at any time up until April 2 to the following email address: eharris@uwf.edu, with the subject line "NeuroNauts Letter of Recommendation."

Please complete this application in full. Note - only ONE version of the application needs to be submitted. This Word document version is provided for convenience. You should either email a copy of the completed application to eharris@uwf.edu or mail a paper copy to the address below. You may add additional pages as necessary, as long as you do not exceed the requested word counts. Alternatively, you may complete an online application via [the Google Form](#) option.

Mailing address to mail completed applications:

Ms. Emily Harris
University of West Florida
Office of Undergraduate Research
11000 University Parkway
Building 4, Rm 408
Pensacola, FL 32514

Applicant Information

Field	Response
Full Name	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Date of Birth	
Current High School Name	
Current Grade Level (2025-2026)	
Anticipated Date of Graduation	
Mailing Address	

- 1. Participants of the NeuroNauts Program must provide their own transportation to/from the UWF campus in Pensacola. Describe your current transportation arrangements and how you plan to reliably travel to the UWF campus in Pensacola every day during the program.**
- 2. Is there any reason you CANNOT commit to an eight-week, full-time program with daily attendance from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.? The program dates are June 1 through July 24.**
- 3. Do you have any planned vacations or conflicts during the program period (June 1 through July 24, 2026)?**
- 4. If you answered "yes" to either of the two previous questions, please explain.**

Academic Background & Preparation

Field	Response
GPA (unweighted)	
GPA (weighted)	
How does school calculate weighted?	
Class Rank: Out of # in Class	

Please list all math and science courses you have completed or are currently taking (high school level courses and higher).

5. Please briefly describe any academic awards or recognition you have received.

6. Please describe any research experience, science fairs, or lab-based projects that you have been involved in. Your response should be 150 to 200 words.

7. List any clubs, organizations, extracurricular, or volunteer activities that you participate in, especially those related to math or science.

Research Interest and Motivation

Please answer the following questions. You may attach additional pages with your responses, but include the questions with your responses.

8. Personal statement -- In 300 to 500 words, explain your interest in neuroscience research. Discuss any specific questions or areas you are excited to explore, and how you believe this experience will shape your future academic and career goals.

The projects below are expected to be part of this year's NeuroNauts program. Please rank the topics from 1 to 8, with 1 being the topic that most interests you.

If you are selected, you'll be paired with a UWF faculty mentor who will guide your research experience. We'll use your selections to help inform mentor matches.

Selected students will also have a chance to meet potential mentors, learn more about their research and mentoring styles, and update their preferences before final assignments are made.

While we will do our best to match students with one of their top choices, we can't guarantee placement in a specific project.

Topic	Rank (1-7, with 1 being the first choice)
Biomarker Detection of Alzheimer's Disease	
Studies of chemicals in the brain and how the brain and immune system communicate	
Advanced computational techniques, including numerical simulations and machine learning, are used to understand brain functioning	
Molecular mechanisms for why exercise protects the brain from Parkinson's Disease using brain cells and mice	
Using brainwave activity to understand better how neurodiverse people respond to sensory information	
Visual working memory and applied cognition.	
Sociocultural and behavioral determinants of brain health	

Demonstrated Commitment

Please answer the following questions. You may attach additional pages with your responses, but include the questions with your responses.

9. In 150 to 200 words, describe why you are a good fit for the NeuroNauts Scholars Program. Include details about your ability to engage fully in a rigorous, full-time research experience without significant interruptions, and your willingness to adhere to a strict schedule.

10. What challenges do you anticipate in participating fully in this program, and how do you plan to overcome them? Your response should be 150 to 200 words.

Additional Information (Optional)

Please answer the following questions. You may attach additional pages with your responses, but include the questions with your responses.

11. Is there anything else you would like us to know that might help us understand your interest in this program or support your participation? (Optional, 150 to 200 words)

Letter of Recommendation

Please provide the name and email address for one teacher or counselor at your high school who can attest to your academic and extracurricular achievements, as well as your commitment to research.

Parent or Guardian Information

Please provide the name and email address of your parent or guardian, so that we can keep them informed of your application.

Signature and Submission

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

For questions, please contact the NeuroNauts Program Coordinator, Emily Harris (eharris@uwf.edu)