

Department of Surgery 2026 Summer Research Program of Excellence

Applications are due February 7, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.

Funds are available for student research scholarships within the Department of Surgery

Each position is funded in the amount of \$3200 for 8 weeks and the students are expected to spend full time during this 8-week period in the laboratory or office. Detailed schedules should be arranged between you and your research mentor. Department and research mentor approval is required. **This funding is geared towards students pursuing a surgical career.**

The purpose of these research scholarships is to provide students within the College of Medicine the opportunity to enhance their ability to seek out information, analyze and apply a solution to a surgically defined problem. The stipends are limited to students currently enrolled in the College of Medicine (must have completed M1 year). This program will not support projects that require travel outside of the State of Nebraska.

Funding will be used to make awards on the basis of competitive applications reviewed by the Department of Surgery. There may be opportunities for research in a variety of surgical areas, including: **transplant, minimally invasive surgery (MIS), bariatrics, vascular, trauma/critical care, surgical oncology, pediatric surgery, or urology.**

Award stipends are considered taxable income **Additional Opportunities**

The College of Medicine also has positions available via the MSSRP. Students may only participate in one program; however, to increase the chances of getting a funded position, we recommend students simultaneously apply for both opportunities. Notification of awards for the Department of Surgery program will be sent out prior to COM, allowing students to be considered for both programs.

For more information regarding the COM Medical Student Summer Research Program, contact Dr. Kari Nelson at kari.nelson@unmc.edu.

Criteria for Assessment of the Applications

- Is there a scientific or educational basis for the project? Does it follow from data found in the literature or the sponsor's laboratory? (Background Section)
- Is the basic science or educational research plan sound? Will the data be analyzed in a proper fashion with appropriate procedures? (Methods Section)
- Is the project realistic in terms of scope? Can the student master the necessary techniques in the time allotted? Is there an appreciation for the possible difficulties or pitfalls?
- To what extent will the proposed project provide a research/learning experience? What interaction with the faculty sponsor will the student have? Is the student going to learn something about the scientific process as opposed to just learning techniques, fact-finding, chart review or data generation?

Howard R. and Marilyn B. McCollister Memorial Fund Rural Surgery Research Program

Through generous gifts from donors, in the summer of 2016, the Department of Surgery introduced the Howard R. and Marilyn B. McCollister Memorial Fund Rural Surgery Research Program. Students selected for this program will spend their summer with a faculty sponsor at rural partner site(s) in Nebraska. As an extension of the Program of Excellence, the application process, guidelines, and expectations for this program are the same. Benefits are also the same, with the addition of reimbursement for one round trip mileage. The Department will assist as much as possible to secure housing. Ideal candidates will have connections to the rural site.

Application

The application must include the application form, a current CV, and research plan of two to four pages that includes background, hypothesis and specific aims, and a methods section. The methods section should also include a description of the data analysis plan. **The student must write the proposal.** Do not copy verbatim from the faculty sponsor's grant.

If the research project requires IRB or IACUC approval, the faculty sponsor must ensure that approval is finalized prior to the start of the project. Awards are to be used for student stipends, and thus, the faculty sponsor is expected to provide laboratory or office space, supplies and any necessary additional financial support.

How to Apply

Application period will open December 2025. Apply online on the UNMC COM Student Opportunities Page <https://www.unmc.edu/com/research/student-opportunities.html>

Questions

If you need assistance finding a faculty sponsor or have additional questions, contact surgerystudentedu@unmc.edu



Participant Guidelines and Expectations

- Conduct and behavior representative of UNMC student code of conduct.
- Maintain compliance at all times with the ethical conduct of research in accordance with established university policies.
- Commit to the program start to finish.
- Perform research at a level commensurate with experience and within scope of the project outlined by the faculty mentor.
- Obtain proper training/certifications prior to beginning of research, i.e. IACUC and or IRB.
- Completion of the project should result in, or lead to, a presentation, abstract, or publication.

Program Completion

An abstract written with assistance from the faculty sponsor is due the first Monday in October. It will be one to two pages in length and include an Introduction, Materials and Methods, and Results and Conclusion section. All scholarship recipients are encouraged to present the results of their research at the annual Midwest Student Biomedical Research Forum in the spring, or another meeting at the discretion of the faculty sponsor. Funding for travel is not included as a part of this scholarship.

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