

Services & Activities Fee Annual Program Review

Program Name: Office of Undergraduate Research – Student Travel & Research Grants

Note: Name change in process

Likely to be Office of University Student Research

Program Manager: Dr. Brandy Wieggers

Fiscal Year: FY22

1. In what ways does your program support CWU students? Please be specific, yet concise.

The Office of University Student Research office supports student research, scholarship, and creative experiences in and out of the classroom while students at Central. With this funding specifically, OUR supports students by providing grants for various research, travel, creative expression, and immersive studies. Students looking to enhance their academic experience at CWU use these funds to explore their disciplines in more depth by either digging into research to provide more information in their field, or travel to conferences to present their work and network with other experts which will help prepare students for their career paths.

2. What are your specific program goals or learning/operational objectives? How are you assessing the effectiveness of your program in achieving those targets?

OUR Program Goals align with Central's Core Themes for ASL Strategic Planning. Below we explain how and what assessment we are completing to track this alignment.

- **Access and Opportunity:** OUR will increase access and opportunity by expanding programming beyond Spring SOURCE to include professional development program to support undergraduates who are doing research, scholarship, and other creative activities. **Assessment:** Tracking growth of OUR programming provided.
- **Inclusiveness and Diversity:** OUR will share best practices for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access in undergraduate research and scholarship through campus promotion, program messaging, and developed trainings. **Assessment:** Looking at the participation in our programs compared to the broader university programs.
- **Sustainability:** OUR will work with campus resources including Foundations and the Sponsored Projects offices to find funders in the greater Washington area that will sustainably fund undergraduate research. **Assessment:** Tracking fund raising efforts and success.

Transformational Teaching and Learning: OUR will support faculty to incorporate research, scholarship, and creative works within their classroom including apply for in-class research training grants such as the Howard Hughes grant which would support faculty in introducing first-year students to active research with their first lab experiences. **Assessment:** Tracking growth of OUR programming provided.

3. What is the overall purpose of your program and what service(s) does your program provide?
 - a. Are there overlaps or intersections with other university programs who have a similar purpose or service?

The overall purpose of the OUR program is to enhance the academic experience of students while also providing professional development, grant writing experience, and experience presenting their own work. Many students will go into fields where these skills are necessary to succeed, and our grants help students prepare for their careers, including help getting ready for graduate school if the students have chosen that as their next step.

4. How does your program align with the purpose of S&A funding? *“Supporting cocurricular and extracurricular activities and programs participated in by students in the furtherance of their education.”*

The OUR Grants fund students working on projects that are not part of a class, providing students cocurricular and extracurricular activity options that extend their classroom learning. The goal of research is to learn something new or understand information better, so these grants directly help students and the disciplines they are studying.

5. How does your program support CWU’s mission and goals? (<https://www.cwu.edu/mission/>)

OUR programming directly supports after aspect of the CWU Mission. Students funded by these grants are producing research, scholarship, and creative expression for their personal knowledge that will serve the broader public interest. When students complete their research funded by our grants, they are more enlightened about their discipline and ready to take the knowledge into their productive lives.

6. Please provide detailed information regarding who utilizes your program? (*Students, faculty, staff, community? Specific demographic information? Class standing, gender, ethnicity, transfer, campus location, etc.*)

	Total Student Participant Applications Received	Total Funded Student Participants
Faculty-Student Provost Research Grants	21 applications	14 projects funded 19 students: 8 graduate students and 11 undergraduates funded.
OUR Research and Creative Scholarship Grant	Fall: 5 applications Winter: 6 applications	Fall: 1 was funded, the other 4 received Provost grants (so the Fall cycle did not allow funding from Provost & OUR for the same project). Winter: 6 applications received and funded.
OUR Virtual Presentation Grant	Fall: 3 applications Winter: 3 applications	Fall: all 3 applications funded. Winter: all 3 applications funded.
OUR Experiential Research and Immersive Studies in the Arts Grant Application	Program began in Winter 2021. 2 applications	Program began in Winter 2021. Both applications were funded.

OUR 2021 Central Summer Scholarship and Research Grant Application	Program began in Summer 2021. 3 applications	Program began in Summer 2021: all 3 applications funded.
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CWU students from all campuses can utilize our grants.

In our 2020-21 cycles, we had 22 students apply for OUR grants (not including Provost grant applicants).

- 55% female applicants
- 42% first generation students, 25% pell eligible
- 79.2% European/Middle Eastern/White , 8.3% Asian, 12.5% Not Reported

These students represent 22+ faculty member mentors.
We mainly served students in senior standing. We are looking into ways to diversify our applicant pool and make sure all students know our grants are available.

7. How many unique CWU students utilize your program or services?
 - a. How do you gather these metrics?
 - b. If you do not, what is preventing you from getting that data and how are you determining usage by CWU students?

All students apply to our program with their SID. We used this with Institutional Effectiveness to do an analysis of our participants.

8. Are there any current vacant positions in your program?

Erin Cone, Program Coordinator, will be leaving March 15th. During Spring Quarter, the office will have a part-time staff member. The program coordinator position will be redesigned and start in Fall of 2022.

We are also hiring a graduate assistant to help with Spring 2022 SOURCE

9. Given the budget reductions taking place and continuing for the remainder of the funding cycle, please tell us what specific impacts those reductions have had on your program compared to what was originally planned and including in your initial base funding request.

With the budget reductions, the main impact is we will not be able to fund as many applications as we normally would, but we still serve the student community as best as we can.
We are also working to fundraise for grant or foundation support to bring in additional funding options.

10. Are there any circumstances or challenges that are currently impacting your ability to use your base funding allocation this year?

With the pandemic, travel has greatly reduced, which has decreased the number and size of travel grant applications. Similarly, we have noticed less students participating in research (due to less mentor availability, need to work, or other barriers). We have adapted as we can, such as adding virtual presentation grants that have helped support students who still want the experience of attending a conference.

11. What growth or increases would you like to see in your program in the future?

We would like to see our applicant pool increase back up to our pre-pandemic numbers, and we hope to hold more grant writing workshops and other professional development sessions in the future.