

Student/Mentor Academic Research Teams (SMART)

ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

Indiana University South Bend prides itself on the abundance and diversity of research and creative activities completed each year by its undergraduate students. The SMART Undergraduate Research Awards are meant to honor undergraduates from across the campus who have distinguished records of research or creative activities. Students are encouraged to submit applications to one of the following categories:

1. Liberal arts (including art history)
2. Natural sciences (including nursing and health professions)
3. Social sciences (including business and economics)
4. Visual and performing arts

These awards are open to all undergraduate students who meet the eligibility requirements stated below. Each awardee will receive \$250 and will have a summary of his or her accomplishments published in the Undergraduate Research Journal.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants for Undergraduate Research Awards must:

1. be enrolled at IU South Bend with either junior or senior standing at the time of application.
2. have a cumulative GPA > 2.5.
3. identify an IU South Bend faculty mentor who will agree to write a letter of nomination that speaks to the quality of the work the student has completed.

Applicants need not have received SMART funding to be eligible. The committee expects, however, that winning students will show a pattern of research success that could include grant writing, editorial work on one of IUSB's undergraduate scholarly journals, dissemination of research results (eg, performances, gallery shows, conference presentations, or scholarly publications), or other related activities. Junior-level applicants who do not win an award may re-submit their application the following year. A student may win only one SMART Undergraduate Research Award during his or her undergraduate career at IU South Bend.

LIMITATIONS

The research and/or creative activities described in the student's application should be performed while the student is enrolled at IU South Bend. Research and creative activities completed prior to coming to IU South Bend (eg, during a freshman or sophomore year at IU Bloomington) should not be included in the application. Although the student's chief mentor for the research may be a scholar from another institution, the letter of nomination must come from a member of the IUSB faculty.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are due to the SMART Committee by FEBRUARY 12 of each academic year. Applications should consist of the following:

1. A cover letter from the applicant indicating the category into which the committee should place the application (Liberal Arts, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, or Visual and Performing Arts) and providing a brief overview of the strengths of the application.
2. A Curriculum Vitae that outlines the applicant's full range of accomplishments in research or creative activities while at IU South Bend. The CV should also include the applicant's student ID number, major field of study, and contact information (phone and email). If unfamiliar with the construction of a CV, the applicant should consult with his or her faculty mentor or with a member of the [SMART Committee](#).
3. A narrative summary of one of the applicant's research or creative projects. Choice of project is left open to the discretion of the applicant, but the summary must be written by the student. The summary should not exceed three pages (single-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font). An additional page may be included for a bibliography or list of literature cited within the summary.
4. A letter of nomination from a faculty mentor. This letter should not exceed one page (single-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font) and should be submitted electronically and separately from the student's application.

All materials (cover letter, CV, and narrative summary) must be submitted electronically as one or more pdf files to Ms. Erika Zynda (ezynda@iusb.edu), who will distribute them to the Committee. The SMART Committee will choose the winners in each category. Winners will be announced no later than one month following the submission deadline. The SMART Committee shall have the right not to grant an award in a particular category, if none of the applicants is deemed exceptional.