

Application for Arts & Sciences Program for Independent Research Summer 2026

In an effort to promote undergraduate research in Arts and Sciences, a few Arts & Sciences Program for Independent Research (ASPIRE) scholarships will be offered to students for the summer of 2026. ASPIRE allows students and faculty to work together on a project that would be difficult to accomplish during the regular academic terms. All awards are for projects to be conducted while in residence at Samford. ASPIRE awards are for independent study without academic credit. Awards will be given on a competitive basis after a review by college leadership.

Criteria

1. The research project is clearly described and will contribute to the discipline.
2. The student shows the ability to complete the research project successfully.
3. The faculty member demonstrates interest and expertise in the research area.
4. The student and the faculty member are committed to conducting the project in residence at Samford. **A minimum of six weeks** in residence at Samford is required; preference will be given to projects with longer residence times.
5. Unless there is exceptional merit, only one award will be made per academic department.

Application

Students must complete the [application form](#) by Friday, March 6th. Before starting the form, be sure to have the following ready to upload.

- Application letter from the student researcher (1-2 pages)
Students should discuss this opportunity with the proposed faculty member before beginning the application process. The application letter must describe the student's interest and qualifications for the ASPIRE program.
- A brief résumé of experiences and qualifications (Student only)
- Letter of support from the faculty mentor (1-2 pages)
The faculty member should explain his or her interest in this project and the benefit to the student researcher of this experience. Possible outcomes for the project (e.g., research presentations) should be discussed.
- Project description (1-2 pages)
A detailed description of the proposed project should be included including previous experience, goals of the project, student activities and expected outcomes. Potential publications and/or presentations should be listed.

Awards

Students participating in the summer research experience will receive a \$2000 stipend. The faculty mentor will receive \$1000 to oversee the project, and up to \$500 for supplies and/or travel to present results of the project can be awarded with an itemized list of expenses. **Awards will be announced by March 27th.** Existing departmental research funds may be used to fund additional projects or to supplement ASPIRE awards. Examples of such funds include the Nash-Collier fund for scientific research, and the Howell and Jenkins funds for research in Biology and Environmental Sciences. *Please note that funds for students cannot be disbursed prior to June 30.*

Final Report

The student must submit a final report describing the research experience to the Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences by August 15, 2026, and should report all publications and presentations to the Associate Dean.