

# **Psychology Undergraduate and Graduate Research Awards**

## **sponsored by**

## **Dr. Sandra Machida and Mr. Geoff Fricker**

## **Information and Instructions [2023-24]**

### **Description of the Awards**

The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) is pleased to announce that funds have been donated to support two research grants for psychology students. The **Undergraduate Research Award in Psychology** is for an undergraduate who plans on conducting a promising research study under the close supervision of a faculty mentor. The **Graduate Research Award in Psychology** is for a graduate student conducting a promising research project under the close supervision of a faculty mentor.

The funders' goal is to help sponsor student research at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in psychology. The research award is contingent upon the student working with a sponsoring faculty member on a student-designed research project including independent study, Honors project, empirical research manuscript, or thesis. Research projects may be in any sub-discipline of psychology, but special consideration will be given to those that address issues in developmental psychology involving children or adolescents (focusing on individuals under the age of 18). This award program supports Chico State's goal of creating and enhancing student-centered learning environments.

The research awards in Psychology are made possible by funds provided by Dr. Sandra Machida, Professor Emerita, and her husband, Mr. Geoff Fricker. As long-time professors, both have valued working with many college students of all ages and backgrounds. They want to continue to promote student learning by funding awards to support student research projects. Their vision is that students will be able to address their empirical questions in Psychology. It is hoped that the awardees will also increase the awareness of the importance of psychology as a scientific discipline with the ultimate goal of improving our lives and our communities.

Award applications are to be submitted by a student nominee in partnership with a sponsoring faculty. Research awards are \$500 each. The award recipients will be acknowledged at the BSS Graduation Award Ceremony in the spring.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for the Research Award, an undergraduate applicant must be an upper-division psychology major with 3.5 GPA or better and have the support of a faculty mentor/grant nominator. A graduate

applicant must be a current graduate student in psychology with 3.5 GPA or better and have the support of a faculty mentor/grant nominator.

## **Requirements**

The Award Application Packet shall include four parts:

- 1) A faculty sponsor nomination letter,
- 2) The undergraduate and graduate research awards in psychology application cover page,
- 3) Narrative (student description of the proposed research study), and
- 4) Unofficial transcripts

### **1) Faculty sponsor nomination letter:**

A Psychology faculty sponsor will nominate a student who will complete a research project in psychology under their guidance. Nomination letters that provide specific details about the student's abilities and the merits of the research project will increase the strength of the award application in the screening process. The letter should include a description of:

- A) the length of time and in what capacity the faculty member has known the student;
- B) the student researcher, including academic background, relevant experiences, and personal qualities that will increase the likelihood for a successful completion of the study (including academic preparation and readiness to conduct a research study);
- C) the research topic and its importance to the student and in the discipline;
- D) the faculty's role in guiding the research project; and
- E) the expected outcomes from the project.

### **2) The undergraduate and graduate research awards in psychology application cover page:**

Complete and sign the application cover page. The faculty sponsor should also sign the cover page. Typing one's name, in lieu of a signature, is acceptable.

### **3) Narrative (student description of proposed research study):**

The applicant shall submit a brief description (2-3 pages) of their proposed research project. The description should include:

- A) tentative research title;
- B) the research area and key questions;
- C) a description of how the applicant developed their idea for the study, and what motivates them to do research on this topic

- D) why the study is important to the discipline of psychology (i.e., theoretical, empirical, or applied implications; citing sources is strongly encouraged);
- E) a description of the methodology of the study (i.e., expected sample, measures, procedures, timeline);
- F) the expected outcomes from the research project (e.g., honors project, research publication, thesis, scholarly presentation, etc.);
- G) a budget with a description outlining costs to conduct the study and importance of the funds (e.g., equipment, instruments, printing, incentives, travel funds for a conference presentation, fees for technical support). [Eligibility for the award is not based on expenses associated with data collection.]

**4) Unofficial transcripts** [first-semester graduate students shall submit their undergraduate transcripts]

### **Timeline, Selection Process, and Deadlines**

Candidates must meet the eligibility requirements, follow the Department's Award Selection Process, and meet Award Deadlines as stated below:

**October:** Psychology Undergraduate and Graduate Research Awards are announced.

**December 8:** Submission deadline for turning in the **graduate student** award application packet to the Psychology Department (Modoc 215). Alternatively, the award application packet can be emailed to Martin van den Berg (mvandenberg@csuchico.edu).

The Psychology Department Awards Committee will review and rank graduate student award applications. The recipient of the award will be notified as soon as possible.

**December 8:** Submission deadline for turning in the **undergraduate student** award application packet to the Psychology Department (Modoc 215). Alternatively, the award application packet can be emailed to Martin van den Berg (mvandenberg@csuchico.edu).

The Psychology Department Awards Committee will review and rank undergraduate student award applications. The recipient of the award will be notified as soon as possible.

**May 2024:** Research Award Recipients will be acknowledged at the BSS Awards Ceremonies.

**September 27, 2024:** Research Award Outcomes Report and Final Product due.

## **Research Award Outcomes Report and Final Product**

After the research project is completed, the Faculty Sponsor shall submit

- 1) an outcomes report, and
- 2) a final product (e.g., research paper, manuscript, etc.)

to the Department Chair by the last Friday of September the academic year after the award was granted.

**Outcomes Report:** For completing the final outcomes report, the department chair will provide a template to the faculty sponsor.

**Final Product:** For the final product, the faculty sponsor and award recipient will work together to submit a deliverable. This will typically be a combination of an abstract of the study, together with a poster, paper, manuscript, or presentation. If the study provides unexpected challenges, then the final product can also consist of an essay written by the award recipient, detailing the lessons that were learned during the research process. The abstract will be posted on the department website, in [the archive of recipients of the Psychology Undergraduate and Graduate Research Awards](#).

### ***Award Application Packets and questions should be directed to:***

Dr. Martin van den Berg, Chair  
Psychology Department  
Modoc 215  
California State University, Chico  
Email: [mvandenbergs@csuchico.edu](mailto:mvandenbergs@csuchico.edu)