The Undergraduate and Graduate Research Grants in Psychology [2019-20]

Description of the Grants
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 Grant 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 Grant 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 grant 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. This grant program supports Chico State’s goal of creating and enhancing student-centered learning environments.

The research grants in Psychology are made possible by funds provided by Dr. Sandra Machida, Professor Emerita, and her husband, 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 grants 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 grantees 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.

Grant applications are to be submitted by a student nominee in partnership with a sponsoring faculty. Research grants are $500 each and will be available for student research projects in the Fall Semester of each year. The grant 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 Grant Application Packet shall include three parts:
1) A faculty sponsor nomination letter,
2) A student description of the proposed research study, and
3) 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. 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.

[Nomination letters that provide specific details about the student’s abilities and the merits of the research project will increase the strength of the grant application in the screening process.]

2) 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) why the study is important to the student and the discipline of psychology (i.e., theoretical, empirical, or applied implications);
   D) a description of the methodology of the study (i.e., expected sample, measures, procedures, timeline);
   E) the expected outcomes from the research project (e.g., honors project, research publication, thesis, scholarly presentation, etc.);
   F) 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 grant is not based on expenses associated with data collection]

3) 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 Grant Selection Process, and meet Grant Deadlines as stated below:

Undergraduate and Graduate Research Grant in Psychology Schedule

September: Call for Nominations for Psychology Research Grant Awards are announced and publicized through standard campus methods.

November 1: Submission deadline for turning in the graduate student grant nomination packet to the Psychology Department (Modoc 215).

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

December 6: Submission deadline for turning in the undergraduate student grant nomination packet to the Psychology Department (Modoc 215).

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

May 2020: Research Grant Recipients will be acknowledged at the BSS Awards Ceremonies.

Research Grant Outcomes Report

After the research project is completed, the Faculty Sponsor shall submit a final outcomes report and product (e.g., research paper, manuscript, etc.) to the Department Chair within 30 days after the completion of the research project.

Grant Application Packets and questions should be directed to the

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California State University, Chico
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