

# ABI Undergraduate Research Scholar Program

The ABI Undergraduate Research Scholar Program is dedicated to enhance the academic experience of students by providing first and second year undergraduates with opportunities to participate in hands-on research and creative work with faculty and staff. The experience of working with a faculty or staff member who is pushing forward the frontiers of knowledge or creative expression will transform what students learn in the classroom into reality and relevance as well as spark the student's curiosity propelling innovation.

## Through this program:

- We bring together first-and second-year undergraduates with faculty and staff to enhance research/project opportunities
- We assist students early in planning for challenging post-baccalaureate opportunities
- We prepare students to be more competitive in their careers
- We develop leadership through peer mentoring opportunities
- We provide mentoring to aid in the success of the student

## Benefits to the Students/Scholar:

- Cutting edge research with hands-on experience where new discoveries are made
- Be in a community of students, faculty, and staff who learn, create, and serve together
- Learn more about a specialized field in which you have an interest
- Discover that text-book facts have real-life applications
- Develop one-on-one interactions with faculty, staff, and other research scholars
- Opportunity to gain experience presenting research data to the public through scientific discussions/conferences
- Develop new skills and discover others that you didn't know you possessed
- Opportunity to obtain good, meaningful recommendation letter
- Receive stipend during this program (\$11.00/hr, 10-15 hrs per week)

## Benefits to the Faculty/Staff/Mentors:

- Ability to have a significant impact on the advancement of educational and personal growth of those students he/she mentors
- The joy of witnessing your own student mentee succeed and eventually become a friend and colleague
- Strengthen his/her research team by attracting good students
- Become the best mentor who is most likely to recruit—and keep—students of high caliber who can help produce better research, papers, and grant proposals
- Enhance your undergraduate mentoring record to build your track records for funding agencies' review
- Develop your professional network
- In making contacts for students, strengthen your own contacts and make new ones
- Receive \$1,250 in supplies to be utilized in your lab for the scholar's research
- Gain assistance in the lab BUT NOT to replace a position you would hire someone to do

**Benefits to ABI:**

- Actively participate in the professional development of students at an early stage of their careers
- Promote the scientific production of the Institute through the participation of students in scientific meetings or publications in peer-review journals
- Help parents and the community at large by motivating students to succeed
- Train the next generation of students who will attract companies providing high paying jobs and increase Arkansas' economy

**General Layout:**

- 6 to 8 students in fiscal year 2021-22 to start in early fall and end in May.
- A pool of mentors will be solicited in the early fall from all of the academic areas on the A-State-Jonesboro campus. Each mentor's area of expertise/research must adhere to the ABI Mission Statement: to improve the health of Arkansans through new and expanded agricultural and medical research initiatives.
- A pool of scholars will be solicited in the fall from all undergraduates classified as freshman and sophomore on the A-State campus that are majoring in an area that fits the ABI mission or that exhibit an interest in majoring in one of those areas.
- Students will be expected (if feasible) to attend professional development workshops/seminars. Each student will have a maximum of \$250 to be used for travel to attend pre-approved workshops.
- A goals and responsibilities document will be signed by both the student and the mentor.
- Evaluations will be sent to both the student and mentor in December to track student's progress and performance.
- Mentors are limited to one applicant submission per year

**Student/Scholar Eligibility Requirements:**

- Currently enrolled as a full-time student at A-State
- Completed no more than 59 credit hours of undergraduate course work
- Have and maintain at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA
- Participation in this program is limited to one year
- May not hold other employment at A-State while in this program
- Make a commitment to fully participate throughout both fall and spring semesters of the program.
- Present what you learned and what research was gained by your project. This will be held prior to the end of the spring term and open to the A-State community.

**Faculty/Staff/Mentor Eligibility Requirements:**

- All current full-time A-State faculty/staff and affiliated faculty/staff that have an area of expertise/research that adheres to the ABI Mission Statement. Preference will be given to those interfacing with the ABI but others will not be excluded from eligibility.
- To understand and agree to the mentor's responsibilities and tips provided.