Application form and announcement of

The Ray H. Crist Student Research Scholarship

The natural science departments and Messiah University are pleased to announce a research scholarship to be given to a qualified student from Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry Departments or Nutrition and Dietetics majors. The scholarship is in honor of Dr. Ray Crist. Since 1970, Dr. Crist taught numbers of Messiah College students the art and methodology of scientific research. Dr. Crist was born in 1900, grew up very close to the college, and graduated from Messiah Academy. His professional career included work at Dickinson College, Columbia University, and Union Carbide. The Ray H. Crist Student Research Scholarship supports the tradition of high-quality student/faculty research and learning at Messiah University. This scholarship can be awarded as $500 a semester for academic year research (renewable for a second semester), or as a summer research stipend, at $440 per week, plus on campus room and board, or $480 a week, if living in a campus house, or off campus.

**Description**

Students from Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry Departments or Nutrition and Dietetics majors are invited to submit research proposals during the spring semester of each year. The goal is to announce the winners by mid-April. Research will typically be conducted during the following summer or academic year. Research settings may include Senior Research, Department and University Honors, Independent Study, or non-Messiah University research environments. Regardless of research location, all proposals must be sponsored by a Messiah faculty member. Research will be done in collaboration with this person or with an off-campus research mentor. The academic year scholarship is granted at $500.00 per semester. The second semester’s grant is contingent on the first semester’s performance. It is understood that the work of the second semester will be a continuation of research started in the first semester. The scholarship is renewable for a second year but the student must reapply with no preference given to current scholarship recipients.

The summer stipend is awarded at $440 per week of work. Room and board, on campus, will be provided. If living off campus, or in a campus house, the stipend is $480 a week. This work must occur between May 27 and August 1, 2025.

It is expected that this research will require full-time work (40 hours) during all weeks proposed, other than those weeks that contain national holidays. A student may obtain secondary employment if the hours do not conflict with this full-time daily work. For example, additional employment in the evenings or on weekends is acceptable, but you should expect to be in the lab or field from about 8:30 to 5 every day of the week, with a half hour for lunch.

The recipient must submit a 4 – 5 page summary report of the project on the last day of summer work, unless an extension is granted. Faculty mentor is accountable for reports being submitted on time. Please submit your report to your mentor, who will forward it to the Dean’s office, as indication of their signature on the report.

All recipients must present their work at the School of Science, Engineering and Health Spring Symposium.

**Eligibility and Selection Criteria**

1. Class Standing - the applicant must be a current full-time sophomore or junior in their Department.

2. Grade Record – Preference will be given to students with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

3. Future Goals - preference is given to students intending to pursue research in graduate school or other settings.

4. Feasibility - selection will take into account the likelihood of completion of the proposed research as determined by availability of equipment, time, and faculty.

5. Research proposal - of great importance is the quality and originality of the research proposal.

**Research Proposal Format and Guidelines**

1. Researching and writing the proposal is the student’s responsibility. Although you must obtain the sponsorship of a faculty member(s) within your department of study, the faculty member (or off-campus research mentor) is not to edit or revise your proposal. You may, of course, talk with faculty members and others to help clarify your thoughts, solicit ideas, and obtain suggestions for research methodology.

2. The proposal should include an introduction to the general nature of the research you wish to pursue and a statement of the specific research question you have in mind.

3. List all equipment, materials, methods, and resources required for the project. Indicate the current availability of these resources in the department, specify the research setting (an on-campus lab, specific field sites, an off-campus lab).

4. Include some references to pertinent literature.

5. The proposal should be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than 1000 words exclusive of citations.

1. Include a brief statement of support from your on or off-campus research mentor. The statement should include an affirmation to provide resources as per #3 above.

**Application Information**

1.Name Click here to enter text. 2.ID No. Click here to enter text. 3.Major Click here to enter text.

4.Overall GPA Click here to enter text. 5.Advisor Click here to enter text.

6.Sponsoring Messiah University faculty member(s) Click here to enter text.

7.Name and institution of off-campus (if applicable) research mentor(s) Click here to enter text.

8.Class standing (So., Jr.) Click here to enter text.

9.Phone Click here to enter text.

10.Timeline of the research. Will this be during the 2025-26 academic year? Or during summer 2025? Click here to enter text.

If this is a proposal for summer work, please complete the following table.

***In order to provide housing at a reasonable cost to the endowment, it is anticipated that all projects (regardless of the number of weeks requested) MUST be completed between May 27st and August 1st.***

**Indicate Timetable of Work:**

**Number of Weeks (5-10):** Click here to enter text.

**Start Date (Tuesday, if May27th, Monday, if later)** Click here to enter text.

**End Date (Friday):** Click here to enter text.

Do you plan to live on campus? Click here to enter text.

11.Write a brief statement of your professional goals:

12.Attach your research proposal to this form and submit it to the office of the Dean of Science, Engineering and Health in Jordan 157 or by email to [schoolofseh@messiah.edu](mailto:schoolofseh@messiah.edu) no later than **March 7th, 2024**.