

Undergraduate Opportunities in Economics

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American Economic Association Resources for Students: <https://www.aeaweb.org/resources/students>

1 Undergraduate Research

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1.1 Publication of Undergraduate Research

Annual Meetings that Invite Submission of Undergraduate Essays

- Eastern Economic Association Undergraduate Sessions (DEADLINE: November; PRESENTATION: February/March)
- International Atlantic Economic Society: Best Undergraduate Paper Competition (DEADLINE: June 15; PRESENTATION: October) – \$500 award and publish in Atlantic Economic Journal.
- Midwest Economics Association Undergraduate Sessions (DEADLINE: November 15; PRESENTATION: March) – \$200 award.
- Missouri Valley Economic Association (DEADLINE: August; PRESENTATION: October) – cash awards (Journal of Economics).
- Carroll Round at Georgetown University (DEADLINE: perhaps January; PRESENTATION: April).
- Council on Undergraduate Research: <http://www.cur.org>.

Journals for Undergraduate Student Research in Economics

- The Developing Economist (DEADLINE: January)
- Equilibria: Duke Economics Review (DEADLINE: December)
- The Visible Hand (DEADLINE: TBC)

¹<https://www.aeaweb.org/resources/students/undergrad-research>

- Issues in Political Economy (DEADLINE: January; PRESENTATION: February)
- Undergraduate Economic Review (DEADLINE: early April)
- Columbia Economic Review (each semester)
- Comparative Advantage (Stanford University)

1.2 Summer Opportunities for Undergraduates

- American Economic Association Summer Program and Minority Scholarship Program (DEADLINE: January 31; PROGRAM: June 1 - July 30)
 - The American Economic Association’s Summer Program and Minority Scholarship Program is now based at Michigan State University. A program begun in 1974, the AEA Summer Program seeks to prepare talented undergraduates for doctoral programs in Economics and related disciplines, by offering a unique opportunity for students to gain technical skills in Economics, and conduct research with prominent faculty.
- Mentoring Program, AEA Committee on the Status of Minorities in the Economics Profession
 - The AEA established the Mentoring Program to support under-represented minorities in entering and/or completing doctorate degrees in economics. Mentoring Program matches African-American, Latino, and Native American economics Ph.D. students with mentors in the field, and also facilitates networking between minority economists and students at all stages of the educational pipeline. This website has more information, current and past participants, mentors, conferences, resources for economists and students, and other helpful information about minorities in the field of economics.

1.3 Contests

St. Norbert College cosponsors the **iOMe Challenge**, inviting teams of undergraduates to submit an essay and a short video to illustrate some of the economic issues associated with financial security. A blue ribbon panel chooses winning teams. The top prize is \$10,000 to the winning student team and \$2,000 to that team’s faculty advisor. The winning team may also be invited to Washington, D.C. to present their entry to Members of Congress, policymakers and other notables interested in this policy issue. There will also be honorable mention prizes of \$2,500 for teams and their faculty advisors. More details and specific rules are available at the contest’s website. The deadline for teams to submit the essay and video is in the fall.

Adam Smith competition: Economics essay due middle of Spring term (March 26; 40,000 words or less), presentation for finalists in April (April 28), prizes of \$2000 (first), \$1000 (second) and honorable mention (\$500) usually winner is recommended to submit to International Atlantic Economic Society: Best Undergraduate Paper Competition (see above - DEADLINE: June 15; Winners from IAES will be contacted by August 15th for the opportunity to present work at IAES conference in Montreal in October. Winner gets \$500 + publication in Atlantic Economic Journal. All finalists receive a plaque and the chance to publish anthology in AEJ.).

West Virginia University awards the **Roger Noll Prize** for Best Undergraduate Paper in Sports Economics. The winner receives \$1,000 along with travel and accommodation to present their research in Morgantown West Virginia. The competition is open to undergraduates and recent graduates. Papers must be between 4,000 and 12,000 words in length and the DEADLINE is December 20th, 2018. Contact Joshua Hall (joshua.hallmail.wvu.edu) or Brad Humphreys (brad.humphreysmail.wvu.edu).

1.4 Other Organizations

- AEA
- Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession
- Omicron Delta Epsilon
 - ODE is an honorary society of economics students, organized as chapters at participating campuses. ODE honors "achievement in economics worldwide" and publishes *The American Economist*.
 - Omicron Delta Epsilon Undergraduate Conference.²
- Council for Economic Education
 - The Council for Economic Education is a nationwide network that leads in promoting economic literacy with students and their teachers. The mission is to help students develop the real-life skills they need to succeed: to be able to think and choose responsibly as consumers, savers, investors, citizens, members of the workforce, and effective participants in a global economy.
- Overview of graduate programs: <https://www.aeaweb.org/resources/students/grad-prep/overview>
- Careers in economics: <https://www.aeaweb.org/resources/students/careers>

²www.ursinus.edu/academics/business-and-economics/omicron-delta-epsilon-undergraduate-conference/

1.5 Center for Undergraduate Research

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1.5.1 Undergraduate Research at Villanova

- Villanova Undergraduate Research Fellows (VURF) Summer Program (DEAD-LINE: March 1)
 - Student authorship
 - Students must complete the Responsible Conduct of Research course
 - Stipend of \$3,500 and on-campus housing
 - \$1000 of funding for summer research: for equipment, supplies, travel and other expenses related to conducting research
 - \$500 travel grants to present at conferences (student and mentor must submit research conference travel request form)
 - Application:
 - * project title and abstract; housing application: students that are awarded CURF-Sponsored Summer Housing will receive additional instructions in mid-April (All VURF grantees are guaranteed summer housing on campus, but CURF-Sponsored Summer Housing is limited beyond VURF grantees)
 - * one page resume (college honors, scholarships, extracurricular activities, publications, community service, performances, employment, hobbies/interests, etc. that you consider most significant.)
 - * 2 page research proposal (strong, feasible, and compelling): project, methods, final product, and anticipated schedule (additional third page may be used for figures, single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, citations not considered part of the 3 page limit); Bibliography
 - * Personal Statement: one-page narrative you as an individual, trajectory you have followed and your future plans (how your background has influenced your development and how that relates to the VURF, not be a reiteration of your resume or elaboration of the Research Proposal) - Why is this research important to you, academically, personally, or professionally? Format: single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, 1-inch margins.
 - * transcript (Villanova transcripts can be unofficial) If you would like submit an official transcript please request one at least a day in advance from the Registrar's Office (202 Tolentine Hall). If you have attended other undergraduate institutions for previous full time or summer study, include transcript(s) or copies of your grade reports from these schools.

³<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf.html>

- * budget (include additional funding sources): table of the budget information with brief justification - budget justification must accompany each expense item and include: Item, Quantity, Cost, Justification, Total - Materials and Supplies: Itemize materials and supplies by nature of expense and Provide the basis for cost estimates or computations (e.g., vendor quotes, prior purchase of similar or like items, etc.) - Other ? (Subscriptions, access to archives, etc.); \$3500 for summer grants (typically 10 weeks, 35 hours per week). This amount is taxable
- * video interview: two-minute elevator pitch about your proposed research project using InterviewStream (see application website: <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf/undergraduate-research/villanova-undergraduate-research-fellows-vurf.html>)
- * Faculty Sponsor Endorsement (tips for faculty: <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf/undergraduate-research/villanova-undergraduate-research-fellows-vurf.html>) and Letter of Support: address your academic potential and your ability to successfully complete the proposed project (submit via VURF portal)
- * CURF-Sponsored Summer Housing Application

Falvey Scholars Award: Senior students must be nominated by their faculty advisor and submit a completed application to be considered for the Falvey Scholars Award (faculty must nominate by **late March, 2017**, then notify their respective students to complete an online application **mid-April, 2017**)

Villanova Freshmen Match Research Program: first year students in Spring term (RAs to faculty mentors: 10 hours per week for 10 weeks for which they will receive a \$1000 stipend); In addition to conducting undergraduate research, Match grantees participate in professional development seminars on resumes, cover letters, oral presentations, and grant writing throughout the Spring semester. Application early October <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf/undergraduate-research/villanova-match-research-program.html>. Faculty members to put up a project online (students choose ones already online).

Travel/Conference Grants: <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf/undergraduate-research/vurf-travel-grant.html>

Undergraduate Research Poster Session: applications and presentations in September, usually for students who have done undergraduate research over summer, see here: <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf/undergraduate-research/undergraduate-research-poster-session.html>

Council on Undergraduate Research Registry: facilitates matchmaking between undergraduates who have research experience, and a desire to pursue an advanced degree, with graduate schools seeking high quality students who are well prepared for research. See here: <https://www1.villanova.edu/>

villanova/provost/curf/undergraduate-research/council-on-undergraduate-research-registry.html

1.5.2 National Scholarships and Fellowships

Fullbright: https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf/fellowship_opportunities/fulbright.html (DEADLINE: July 1)

Graduate School Funding: https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf/fellowship_opportunities/graduate_school_funding.html

Post-grad Opportunities: https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf/fellowship_opportunities/post-grad_opportunities.html

Prestigious Scholarships: Gates-Cambridge, Marshall, Rhodes (all UK); Schwarzman (China); Mitchell (Ireland/Northern Ireland). https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf/fellowship_opportunities/prestigious_fellowships.html

Study Abroad Funding: https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf/fellowship_opportunities/study_abroad_funding.html

Undergraduate Research: EuroScholars: research abroad program designed for advanced and talented undergraduate students from US and Canadian institutions looking for an international research experience (DEADLINE: April 1 for Fall and October for Spring) (https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/curf/fellowship_opportunities/undergraduate_research_fellowships/euro_scholars.html)