Luther College recognizes the importance of undergraduate scholarly activity. Student research is supported through a series of distinct programs, most of which are coordinated by the Director of College Honors, with oversight by the Honors Advisory Committee.

The Summer Student/Faculty Collaborative Research program provides opportunity for Luther students to engage full-time in collaborative research projects with Luther faculty members during the two months of Luther’s summer session (June/July). All returning Luther students (current juniors, sophomores, and first-year students), in any major, are eligible to apply.

Each full grant provides $3,000 in stipend to the student for eight weeks of full-time research work, on-campus shared housing for the student, up to $500 for project expenses, and $500 in faculty development funds for the faculty member. Proposals for smaller or shorter research projects will be considered. Project proposals must be written and submitted jointly by the student and faculty member. Priority is given to meritorious proposals from teams involving students who have not previously been funded through this program.

Once again this year, proposals are welcome in all disciplines. In addition, special funding is available through the generosity of donors for projects that will provide research experience to students interested in research or career paths related to the following areas:

- health care, health care management, or health care administration
- cancer research or biomedical research in cellular regulation, gene regulation, or genetics
- business or economics
- modern languages
- humanities, humanistic social sciences, and arts

We also encourage proposals from teams of faculty and students (typically two faculty, two students) interested in pursuing a creative, multidisciplinary project that draws on the insights of the humanities, sciences, and social sciences to address a particular theme or issue, as a foundation for future directed readings or course design. Up to two such projects will be funded in summer 2016 by our grant from the Mellon Foundation on enhancing liberal arts learning:

- humanities-based multidisciplinary research (teams of multiple faculty/students are welcome in this area)

Proposals for Summer Student/Faculty Collaborative Research Projects are due in the Dean’s Office (Union 262) by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 29. [Notification of decisions will be made by March 18.]

- Projects should emphasize original student research or creative activity and be accomplishable during eight weeks of on-campus research during the two summer school sessions, ending on Friday, July 22. Projects may be extensions of work that has begun during the school year; they may also continue into the next school year.
- Support is available for all disciplines.
Student stipend of $3,000 is subject to ordinary income taxes and Social Security payments. Working hours are subject to wages and hour laws and must not exceed 40 hours per week, to be verified by time card. Students are not allowed other on-campus employment for the eight-week period.

For continuing students only (not spring graduates).

Students will be provided with shared campus housing (not to exceed the eight-week period). The value of provided campus housing is considered taxable income. There is no funding allowance for non-campus housing.

Faculty will receive $500 for development/research/travel deposited into their faculty development account.

Project expenses - up to $500; non-consumable items become the property of Luther College.

Normally only one student per faculty member will be funded, unless outside funding supplements the project.

Typically it is expected that the research will be conducted on campus, but proposals that involve off-campus domestic or international field work are also welcome. The project proposal should make the case for why travel to a site is needed. In these cases, the student stipend will be converted into reimbursement for expenses needed to conduct the field research. (No stipend will be awarded.)

Collaborative teams may propose projects that are shorter than two months, or that involve the student in research work for fewer than 40 hours per week during the two-month grant period. In these cases, the stipend will be pro-rated according to the number of total work hours proposed. Shared on-campus housing will be available only to those students who are also enrolled in a summer course or whose total work hours (combining the research with another campus job) qualify them for housing.

Recipients should feel an obligation to seek opportunities to present their research at the Luther Student Research Symposium in May 2017 and in other venues such as departmental colloquia, other campus research forums, or national/regional conferences.

A final report of the project is due by September 16, 2016.

Proposals should both explain and develop an argument for your project. Proposals should be limited to three pages and should be directed at educated readers who are not specialists in your area of study. Please include the following elements:

I. Project title.
   Student name, ID number, SPO, phone number, email address and signature.
   Faculty supervisor name, email address and signature.

II. Preparation (courses or other experiences that make it probable that you will successfully complete this project).

III. Project description. (Identify the project's focus, procedures, probable stages, and its benefit for both student and faculty member.)

IV. Outcome. (Describe the project's expected outcomes and, if possible and appropriate, identify presentation opportunities that you will seek.)

V. Faculty supervisor's role. (Faculty supervisors are expected to be on campus, working collaboratively with the student. It should be clear that the student is an integral part of the research process, including planning, data collection, analysis, and presentation.)

VI. Budget (up to $500, to be used only for expenses during the time of the project, unless exceptions are identified in the proposal. Non-consumable items become the property of Luther College.)