

Southwestern Energy (SWN) Research Stipend Student Application Guidelines

The Southwestern Energy (SWN) Research Stipend supports undergraduate and graduate student research in Environmental Science, Geography, and Physics. The purpose of this award is to encourage high-quality, student-driven research experiences that strengthen academic, professional, and scholarly development.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate students in Environmental Science, Geography, or Physics.
- Minimum cumulative GPA: 3.0.
- Proposals must be written primarily by the student. Faculty may provide guidance, but applications must reflect the student's own work and voice.

Award Details

- Maximum award: \$1,500 per project.
- Allowable expenses include research supplies, field or laboratory expenses, travel for research activities, and travel to present research at professional meetings.
- Students may expend funds through the completion of their research project in accordance with university policies.

Proposal Format and Required Sections

Proposals must not exceed four (4) pages, excluding the cover page, budget, budget justification, and literature cited. Use clear headings and concise writing.

Required sections:

- Introduction and Background: Provide sufficient context and include a brief literature review that establishes the importance of the research question.
- Objectives, Hypotheses, or Research Questions: Clearly state the purpose of the project.
- Methods: Describe the study design, data collection, and analysis methods in sufficient detail to demonstrate feasibility.
- Expected Outcomes and Significance: Explain what you expect to learn and why the project matters (scientifically, societally, or professionally).

- Benefit to the Student: Describe how this project will contribute to your academic, professional, or career goals.
- Project Timeline: Provide a month-by-month timeline of major activities (e.g., "March: Field sampling," "April: Data analysis," "May: Draft final report"). You can use a Gantt Chart. This demonstrates to reviewers that the project is manageable within the timeframe.
- Literature Cited: Include citations for all sources referenced.

Budget and Budget Justification

Applicants must include a detailed budget and a brief budget justification. The justification should explain how each expense supports the proposed research. Budgets that appear excessive, vague, or unrelated to the project may reduce competitiveness.

Review and Selection Process

Proposals are evaluated by an ad hoc faculty committee. Review criteria typically include: clarity of the research question, quality of the proposed methods, feasibility of the project, quality of writing, and educational benefit to the student. The number of awards depends on available funding.

Recipient Responsibilities

- Recipients must present a poster at the College of Science and Engineering Student Research Symposium.
- All presentations and publications resulting from the project must acknowledge support as a Southwestern Energy Fellow.
- Students must comply with all applicable compliance requirements (IRB, IACUC, Radiation Safety) when relevant.

Submission Instructions

- Deadline: Friday, February 27, 2026.
- Submit a single PDF that includes the signed cover page and full proposal.
- Email submissions to: gadams@uca.edu
- Subject line: SWN Research Grant – Last Name