

ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

August 19, 2026

Announcement of Availability of Undergraduate Student Science Research Grants

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

\$750 for supplies plus \$50 unrestricted award

The Rochester Academy of Science will award grants in January 2027 for supplies and travel related expenses for research projects performed by undergraduate college students.

One grant of up to \$750 to the student's college plus an unrestricted award of \$50 to the student will be awarded to the top proposal. This is the *Dr. William L. Hallahan Award for Excellence in Grant Proposal Writing*. Partial funding of at least \$400 will be provided for eight or more additional proposals. For 2025-26, the Academy made fifteen grants totaling \$6,200. Funds for these grants come primarily from the Katherine H. Jensen Memorial Research Grant Fund, the Thomas F. & Annie A. and Grace Murray Memorial Research Grant Funds and the Student Grants Endowment Fund. Applications for these grants will be judged on their merit as scientific research and for clear, concise description of the project according to the directions.

Proposals in any area of scientific study are encouraged. It is the general philosophy of the reviewers, however, to favor funding research in areas like those of the members of the Rochester Academy of Science. These interests include all aspects of natural history, including astronomy, anthropology and archeology, biology/botany/entomology/mycology/ornithology/zoology, biochemistry, chemistry, conservation and environmental science/ecology, earth science/geology/geosciences/mineralogy/paleontology, physics, neuroscience, psychology, and the like. Information about the Rochester Academy of Science can be found at <http://www.rasny.org>.

These grants are intended to help students who are working toward undergraduate degrees to purchase expendable materials for use in their projects and for travel expenses to collect data, but not for laboratory equipment. Each research grant will be issued to the science department of the student's school. It is expected that the student's school will provide use of appropriate equipment and laboratory space. The research project may be in progress but must be designed to be completed within one year. The application must have the written endorsement of a sponsoring faculty member. The sponsor is also expected to see that the student completes the project if the grant is awarded. We recognize that the faculty sponsor may have a significant role in guiding and developing the research project. However, the undergraduate student must write the grant proposal submitted to the Grants Committee for consideration.

Upon receipt of an award and completion of the project, a written research report should be sent to RAS Grants Committee Chairperson, Michael Grenier at mgrenier@frontiernet.net by May 21, 2027 (or a progress report with expected completion by the end of the summer). This report should be sent by email as an attached Word document (preferred) or pdf. We also encourage participation at the RAS Fall Scientific Paper Session at St. John Fisher University on November 7.

Specific directions for applications (similar to applications by the National Institute of Health and the Department of Defense) are on the next page. Please give these to your students.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

All applications must be written by the student and include the following information:

The proposal may not exceed four pages; an additional one to two pages may be used for references.

PAGE ONE

1. Student's name, home address and phone number, school address, phone number and **email address**. Unless otherwise specified, all correspondence will be sent to the student's school address.
2. Sponsoring faculty member's name, title and school (with a complete address, phone number, and email). The application should have the written endorsement of a sponsoring faculty member. This endorsement should be a brief statement confirming the faculty member's commitment to oversee the project and that the proposal has been written by the student. The faculty sponsor should email this directly to: mgrenier@frontiernet.net.

DO NOT reveal student, faculty sponsor, or institution identity in any way beyond **Page One** of the project proposal; to do so will lead to rejection.

PAGE TWO

1. The project title.
2. An abstract of the objectives/Goal (brief Background and Hypothesis) and procedures used to reach the goal.
3. Complete Line Item Budget including a total for expenses. Include a list of all materials and supplies that will have to be purchased, their cost, and expected supplier. Our grants are intended for the purchase of expendable materials for use in the projects. Travel expenses included in the budget must be necessary for the collection of data. Indicate which items in the budget will be paid for by the grant. It is expected that the student's school will provide use of appropriate equipment and laboratory space.

PAGES THREE & FOUR

1. A clear, concise description/narrative of the research involved. This should include a) background and rationale (and/or) hypothesis, b) procedures or methods, and c) expected outcomes. The proposal will be evaluated by both specialists and general scientists; therefore, the narrative should be understandable yet specific. The use of specialized vocabulary or abbreviations should be clearly defined. The generally accepted steps of the experimental method should be evident and in order. Use the Council of Science Editors (CSE) Style (author and year of publication) for any in-text citations.
2. Please include starting date, progress to date (if any), and an estimated date of completion.

REFERENCES should be isolated on the final page or two and follow APA format (Last name and initials of authors, Year, Title, Name of Journal/book published, page numbers, plus any applicable DOI or URL). References should be limited to those necessary to support the rationale and expectations of the research and may be fewer than in the final paper. Publications by the faculty sponsor may be used.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS:

So that we may make these awards by the beginning of the Spring 2027 semester, applications must be sent by email to mgrenier@frontiernet.net no later than **December 17, 2025**

1. Email the proposal as an attached Word document (preferred) or pdf.
2. Have your faculty advisor send a separate email endorsing this proposal (see Page One Instructions).

Questions? Contact RAS Grants Committee Chairperson, Michael Grenier. Email: mgrenier@frontiernet.net.

The project will be evaluated on its scientific merit, clarity of presentation (**including grammar, spelling, and punctuation**), appropriateness as an undergraduate activity, and competence of the (student) researcher as evidenced by his/her narrative.

You will receive confirmation of receipt of your proposal via email. Both students and their faculty sponsors will receive letters when all award decisions have been completed

If you did not receive a copy of this announcement directly and would like to be added to the email distribution list, please send (email) your name, academic department, institution, and email address to mgrenier@frontiernet.net.