

Student Research & Creative Activity (CA): Expanding Opportunities and Access

***New* Research/CA “Shadowing” Track**

funded by an award from the Strategic Allocation of Resources (StAR) program

The objective of this StAR-funded initiative is to *strengthen and grow student research and creative activity (CA)* by supporting “tiered” opportunities for faculty to expose students to scholarly activity early in their college careers, and to encourage students to engage in more advanced participation as they progress toward graduation. This initiative also seeks to attract students who are traditionally underrepresented in such endeavors. This new funding track is in addition to the [Student Grant Program for Research & Creative Activity](#), which awards grants for independent projects conducted by students with faculty sponsorship.

Through the Research/CA Shadowing Track, faculty will be incentivized to broaden student engagement in research/CA, whereby a student with little-to-no experience (freshmen/sophomores, but first-year transfer students are also eligible) would join a faculty member’s research/CA endeavor as an observer. This could take the form of a student joining a research team or working with an individual faculty member (sitting in on meetings, observing in the laboratory, conducting background research, for example). It could be a beginning student shadowing/assisting an upperclassmen on his/her funded Student Research/CA Grant project, or joining a one-on-one or small group mentoring program with a faculty member whose research/CA agenda may not be conducive to direct student engagement in the activity. (The student participant would benefit from learning first-hand about the process, progress, etc.) This track will help prepare students interested in pursuing an independent research/CA project later in their college experience: It could serve, for instance, as an opportunity for gathering ideas for a research or creative activity project, learning about methodologies, and thinking about realistic timeframes.

Guidelines and Application Information

- Interested students (freshmen/sophomores/first-year transfers) who need guidance on becoming a research/CA ‘shadow’ student may contact a member of the [Committee on Research](#) for assistance.
- Applications for funding are to be submitted by full- or part-time faculty/professional staff only (no student applications allowed).
- Activity must be a full semester and/or summer experience.
- A faculty member may have no more than two “shadow” students at any given time.
- Once approved, faculty applicant can re-apply for one additional semester and/or summer experience for any given student.
- Applications are to be submitted [online](#) (rolling deadline).
- Funding requests can include: faculty stipend of \$150, “shadow” student stipend of \$100, and up to \$500 for other related costs (must be detailed and justified in application).
- Allow up to 4-6 weeks for review by the Committee on Research.
- Faculty awardees will be required to submit a brief assessment at the end of the shadowing experience, including a summary of activities, how the experience benefited the student, any specific outcomes, and whether the student is likely to continue work on the grant-sponsored research or creative activity.

Applicants for funding will be asked to review their proposed activity in relation to the five SUNY Criteria for “Approved” Applied Learning Activities, i.e. that the activity: (1) is structured, intentional and authentic; (2) requires preparation, orientation and training; (3) includes monitoring and continuous improvement; (4) requires structured reflection and acknowledgement; and (5) is assessed and evaluated. (Not all activities will meet all criteria; but faculty should strive to design activities that meet the criteria where possible.)