

Guidelines and Instructions for Synovus Sophomore Grant Application

The Synovus Sophomore Grant awards up to \$2,000 to Berry College students who are rising sophomores and \$500 for faculty or staff mentors to support projects related to the student's exploration of academic, research, or growth experiences such as practicums, research, internships, entrepreneurial service or work projects, or artistic endeavors.

Eligibility Criteria

Students who meet the following criteria are invited to apply:

- ❖ Full-time student status
- ❖ GPA of 3.0 or higher
- ❖ Completion of at least 12 credit hours, but no more than 30 hours in residence at Berry College
- ❖ Endorsement of a faculty sponsor

Application Checklist Applicants must submit the following by the due date:

- ✓ Completed student application
- ✓ Current resume/vita
- ✓ Faculty or Staff letter of support
- ✓ All applications must be typed

Faculty or Staff Mentor's Letter of Support

1. The faculty letter of support should be submitted from a full-time teaching faculty member from the discipline/area to be researched.
2. By sending the application package signed by the student to undergradueresearch@berry.edu, the faculty member is acknowledging that they agree with the guidelines put forth in this document and agree to mentor the student on the proposed project.

Other Information

- ❖ Students selected for the Synovus Grant must present their work at the following Berry Student Symposium in the spring.
- ❖ If applicable, all projects must be in compliance with Berry College's policy on Human Subjects Research and Institutional Animal Care and Use.
- ❖ Equipment and material purchased with scholarship funds is the property of Berry College.
- ❖ All funds must be spent and expense vouchers submitted by the project's end date as outlined in the award letter. If a reasonable expense falls outside of the one-year grant period, the applicant may request an extension of the award period in the initial application. If an extension of grant funds becomes necessary during the one-year time frame, the applicant may contact the Chair of the Council of Student Scholarship in writing to ask for an extension of the award period. This request must be submitted at least one month before the project's end date.
- ❖ Students must submit a report at the end of their project to the Provost's office.

Student Signature

Date

Mentor Signature

Date

Synovus Sophomore Scholars Grant

Deadline: March 25, 2026

Student Information

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Student Name: | <input type="text"/> | Student ID Number: | <input type="text"/> |
| Graduation Date (Expected): | <input type="text"/> | Email Address: | <input type="text"/> |
| Current GPA: | <input type="text"/> | Current Berry GPA (If Different): | <input type="text"/> |

Faculty Mentor Information

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Faculty Mentor: | <input type="text"/> | Department: | <input type="text"/> |
| | | Email Address: | <input type="text"/> |

Project Information

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Title of Project: | <input type="text"/> |
| Total Amount Requested for the Project (max \$2,000): | \$ <input type="text"/> |

Abstract:

Provide a brief, non-technical summary of the research project or creative endeavor that addresses the project's background/significance, project objectives, methods, and anticipated outcomes. Include a statement of how the proposed work makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline. (Limit 1400 characters)

Please send your complete application to undergraduateresearch@berry.edu by 5pm.

Project Description:**(1) Introduction**

1a. Describe the background/significance of the project. Include relevant citations as needed.

1b. List 2-3 project objectives.

1c. How does the proposed work make an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline? Include relevant citations that place your project in context.

2a. Describe the research methods.

2b. Describe the timeline for the project. Keep in mind you have one year to spend the awarded funds.

3a. Briefly describe the anticipated outcomes of your proposed research.

3b. State how you plan to disseminate your work.

(4) Academic/ Personal Development

Briefly describe (approximately 1 page) how the project will enable academic, research, and/or growth experiences. For example, you could explain how working on the proposed project will help prepare you for your chosen field of study or anticipated career.

OUR Grant History:

(1) If this project requires research clearance, has it been obtained?

IRB (Human Subjects Research) – Protocol Number: _____

IACUC (Vertebrate Animal Research) – Protocol Number: _____

ELM (Education Land Management) – Approval Number: _____

No; appropriate forms have been submitted

(2) Have you received any other funding? If yes, please check which one you received.

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kirbo Scholar Award Grant | <input type="checkbox"/> Richards Undergraduate Research Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Synovus Sophomore Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Research and Development Funds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STEM Fellows Grant | |

Resumé:

Student must attach a current resumé as part of the application; please make sure to include work experience and volunteering activities.

Budget and Justification:

Fill complete the following table and provide a short, written justification for each item included in the budget. Please keep in mind you have one year to spend the awarded funds. If funding for conference or research related travel is requested, make sure to justify the importance/purpose of the travel. Funding may be used for conference travel even if the student is not presenting if a justification is included.

In addition, attach copies of documentation used to construct your budget to this application (screenshots are acceptable). Grants submitted without budgetary documentation will not be considered.

Itemized Budget (Use Whole Dollars Only)

| Item | Cost |
|---|-----------|
| Materials and Supplies (Itemize) | |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| Subtotal Materials and Supplies: | \$ |

Materials and Supplies Justification:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Registration Fees (please describe) | |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| Subtotal Registration Fees: | \$ |

Registration Fees Justification:

Travel

| | |
|--|----|
| Transportation (airfare, mileage, etc.) | \$ |
| Lodging: nights at per night | \$ |
| Meals: days at per day | \$ |
| Subtotal Travel: | \$ |

Travel Justification:
Equipment (Itemize)

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| Subtotal Equipment: | \$ |

Equipment Justification:
Other (Itemize)

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| Subtotal Other: | \$ |

Other Expenses Justification:
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$

FACULTY LETTER OF SUPPORT

Please address the following questions in support of your Synovus applicant (max 700 characters per section):

- a. The feasibility of the proposed project in the given timeline (1 year):
- b. The significance of the work, i.e., why this proposal would be a good Synovus Project.
- c. Why this student would make a good Synovus recipient, i.e., highlight qualities like the student's maturity, perseverance, and motivation.
- d. Faculty mentors must be able to demonstrate their ability to successfully mentor a student in an extraordinary way beyond the expected role of faculty advisor. Discuss your level of involvement in this project and previous successes with undergraduates (e.g., publications with undergraduate co-authors, presentations, other creative endeavors).

Please send your complete application to undergraduateresearch@berry.edu by 5pm.