



Phelps Family NHS Student Research CAP Award

The Phelps Family NHS Student Research Contribute, Achieve, Pay-It-Forward (CAP) Awards are competitive \$6,000 scholarships intended to enhance the academic experience and success of undergraduate students in the College of Natural and Health Sciences at UNC through engagement in a research project that is guided by faculty. The CAP Awards are intended to recognize exemplary undergraduate student research by those students who promote CAP values and behaviors. CAP values and behaviors include: **C**ontributing to one's community; **A**chieving one's goals through perseverance and overcoming obstacles; and **P**aying-it-forward by impacting the lives of others in meaningful and positive ways through small and large, random and planned acts of kindness, caring and giving back.

Students can receive a CAP Award to pursue research in any College of NHS discipline.

Applications are accepted one time per year and are due **March 24, 2025 by 5:00 PM.**

Eligibility to Apply

- Must be a full-time undergraduate student enrolled in an on-campus degree program at the University who is a citizen of the United States or a Permanent Resident or has DACA or ASSET status; is not a dependent of an employee of the University.
- Must have junior or senior year academic status or completed a minimum of 60 transferable credits to the University when the CAP Scholarship is to be applied to the student's account.
- Must have at least two (2) remaining semesters before the expected graduation date.
- Must make a written commitment to the University upon acceptance of the CAP Scholarship, to enhance their personal financial literacy by registering for and completing the BAFN 240 course before their senior year begins or by completing a comparable alternative such as [iGrad](#).
- Recipients must complete a brief biography to be shared with the Donors or their representative by the end of September of the fall semester when the CAP Scholarship is first applied to the recipient's student account. Undergraduate degree-seeking student within the College of the Natural and Health Sciences (part-time or full-time accepted).
- Must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
- Must not be in violation of any University policy within the past year.
- Applicants do not need to be already engaged in research with faculty to be eligible to apply. Students in the planning stages of their research who effectively articulate the plan and the direction of their project will be strong candidates.

- Research project proposals can be submitted by an individual student or a team of students. If an individual student receives a CAP Award, they will receive the full \$6,000 and if a team of students receives a CAP Award, the \$6,000 will be split evenly between the team members.
- A student may receive a maximum of one CAP Award whether as an individual or part of a team.

Award Recipient Requirements:

- Once awarded, recipients **must** be actively engaged in their research and remain enrolled as a full-time degree seeking student at UNC during their award period.
 - If you receive need-based financial aid, please contact the Office of Financial Aid to determine how a CAP Award may affect your financial aid package.
- You will be asked to complete one or two brief reports during your award period describing your activities/progress related to your research project.
- You are required to present your work (proposed or in-progress research projects are fine) at the NHS Undergraduate Research Ceremony on April 10, 2025.
 - A call to submit proposals for the NHS Undergraduate Research Ceremony will be announced during the spring semester.

Review Process:

The review process can take up to 4 weeks.

- Applications are screened for completeness.
- The NHS Awards Committee, a committee of NHS faculty, will review your application, examining your essay for evidence of the nature, extent, and quality of your research activities, the role you play in this research and your CAP values and behaviors. All reviewers understand the research enterprise well and will provide numerical scores and comments based on a rubric that encompasses the criteria specified below.
- All applicants receive notification on whether their proposal was funded or not funded, are invited to receive feedback on their applications.

Selection Criteria

The committee evaluating your application will use the criteria listed below. Each bullet point does not need to be satisfied; they are factors that reviewers will take into account in their evaluation.

Quality of Applicant

- Adequate academic preparation for proposed work and the student's potential for success
- Motivation: sincere curiosity and interest in topic or research experience
- Mentor's overall assessment of student's abilities and potential for learning and contributing to the research
- Clear illustration of how the applicant promotes CAP values and behaviors

Understanding of Research

- Clarity and depth of the project description
- Student's ability to place his/her research in a broader context
- Student's demonstrated facility with the concepts, methodologies, and questions in the field of study; project description clearly written in student's own voice
- Student's articulation of his/her responsibilities and how they relate to the overall research project

Quality and Intensity of Experience

- Student's investment in the research
- Level of participation and challenge for the student's point of development
- Quality of mentoring support and the research environment

Educational and Long-Term Impact

- Achieved and potential learning benefits of research experience
- Longer-term education and/or career goals and describes how research experience moves them toward goals
- Impact of financial support on student's engagement with research and impact of receiving a CAP Award

Feedback on your Application

If you did not receive a CAP Award you may still find it valuable to hear what aspects of your proposal could be improved if you are planning to apply for other scholarships, graduate school, grants or even a job. To receive feedback on your application, contact kim.murza@unco.edu

NHS Undergraduate Student Research CAP Scholarship Application

Before you begin your application, please acquaint yourself with the purpose of the CAP Award, eligibility requirements, the elements that comprise your application and the review process and selection criteria.

Students **must email a single pdf application** (including faculty support letter) to the Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs (kim.murza@unco.edu) by the stated deadline. *If faculty have concerns regarding support letter, please contact Dr. Murza.*

SECTION 1 – ELIGIBILITY (APPLICATIONS NOT MEETING THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED)

- What is your major? (must be in the College of NHS) _____
- Current cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale (must be at least 3.0) _____
- Any documented violations of UNC policy within the past year? Yes No
- Have you previously received this award? (eligible only once) Yes No
- Able to attend the NHS Undergraduate Research Ceremony on Thursday, April 11, 2024? Yes No

SECTION 2 – PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name:		
(last name)	(first name)	(middle initial)
Primary Phone Number:	Email Address:	

SECTION 3 – RESEARCH PROJECT AND CAP VALUES/BEHAVIORS DESCRIPTIONS

In a separate document, provide your responses to the information below:

1. Project title, description, general dates of involvement, average hours spent per week.
2. Essay, uploaded as a PDF.
 - a. Your essay should be a maximum of **1,250 words**. Essays should be double-spaced, in 12-point font or equivalent size with standard margins. You may include images or figures. References do not count against the 1250 word limit.
 - b. **Essay prompt:** In your own words, describe your research and what you and your faculty mentor hope to learn from your work. Discuss your motivations for getting involved in this research project and how this work contributes to your education and to the development of your future plans. Be sure that your description includes how you exhibit one or more of the following CAP values and behaviors:
 - i. Contribute to your community
 - ii. Achieve your goals by persevering and overcoming obstacles
 - iii. Pay it forward by impacting lives of others in meaningful and positive ways to them through small and large, random and planned acts of kindness, caring and giving-back.

SECTION 4 – FACULTY SUPPORT

Obtain a letter of support from 1 UNC faculty member who works or will work directly with you on your research related activities. Their letter of support should describe your research experience and/or proposed research.