Oklahoma State University’s Freshman Research Scholars program provides 60 students a $1,000 scholarship and the opportunity to go beyond the classroom and take part in research with experienced faculty.

1. Any incoming freshman can apply to become a Freshman Research Scholar. You can research any subject from our 200+ majors. It’s not just labs and test tubes. Have a question? You’ve got your research opportunity.

2. Research is easier when you’re surrounded by faculty who are leading experts in their field and want to help.

3. Taking part in research can impact your life in many ways. You make long-term connections with faculty and your peers; you also make a contribution inside or outside your discipline.

4. You don’t have to be a member of The Honors College. You just have to be motivated, intellectually curious and have a strong work ethic.

5. OSU is a comprehensive research university. You have the opportunity to take advantage of tools, labs and bright minds.

“This program truly helped me move from being a student to being a scholar simply because I was engaged with the material. This was a huge part of my education this year, and I couldn’t be more grateful for such an awesome program. I think this program is one of the things that makes OSU so great!”
- Macy Gleason

“I learned that getting involved in research is not hard at all! All you have to do is ask around. In fact, the faculty loves helping students with their research projects. Great experience! I recommend it to everyone as a freshman!”
- Kate Janike

“My research stemmed from my personal life and the difference between my brothers and I after having our wisdom teeth removed. I noticed there was a difference in our tolerance to the medication, so I decided to look into why. Research is something that anyone can do, provided they have proper support and guidance.”
- Jonathan Luscomb

“I chose my topic because it was related to a sport I love to play and honestly, it was something I had always wondered about. There are so many research opportunities out there for people willing to participate.”
- River Crawford

Incoming freshmen must submit an application for the Freshman Research Scholars Program on or before March 1 of the upcoming academic year. For more information and to apply, visit scholardevelopment.okstate.edu.
Collecting Data in Severe Storms with the Use of Dropsondes
By Nicholas Foster
College: Engineering, Architecture & Technology
Major: Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Faculty Mentor: Jamey Jacob

“Living in Oklahoma my entire life, I’ve gotten to experience all of the severe storms and hectic weather Oklahoma has. I thought it would be great to contribute to that research so we can better understand it and prepare.”

Foster researched the creation of a deployment system from an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to collect meteorological data. These UAVs drop sensors, called Dropsondes, which record a number of data points useful to meteorologists. Foster found that each Dropsonde would cost $130. Twelve of the Dropsondes could be fit into the UAV to be deployed from the ground at any time. The systems, with parachute attached, would be dropped into severe storms and relay information in real time or stored on the Dropsonde to be collected later.

“I am continuing to work with Dr. Jacob and hope to be selected as a Niblack scholar. My overall goal is to work in the Unmanned Aerial Systems graduate program and see where that takes me as a career. It’s been great because of the opportunities the research has presented me.”

The Effect of Orange Pulp on Bone Microarchitecture
By Kate Janike
College: Human Sciences
Major: Nutritional Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Barbara Stoecker

“It’s a different way of learning. I’m a very hands-on learner. I like using my nutrition facts from class and applying it to formulate a conclusion.”

Janike wanted to determine whether bone density in post-menopausal females can be improved by drinking orange juice. Using two sets of female lab rats – those who had their ovaries removed to simulate post-menopausal women and those who served as a control – Janike fed both groups orange juice over a 3-month period. Her research found that the control group saw the benefits of the orange juice while those in the group with ovaries removed did not. Janike hypothesized that this could be due to a lack of hormones.

“It’s made me more confident, especially in coming up with ideas myself and not being afraid to speak to professionals. It’s given me an outlet to use the stuff I’ve learned in class in a different way. It’s more than filling in bubbles on tests. It’s more about coming up with ways to help people in the real world.”