

Anne McNabb Undergraduate Research Fellowship

The Department of Biological Sciences is pleased to announce this call for applications for the 2026 Anne McNabb Summer Undergraduate Fellowship, named in honor of Dr. Anne McNabb, Emerita Professor of Biological Sciences & Associate Dean of the Graduate School. Dr. McNabb's research career included more than 100 publications, many coauthored by VT undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. McNabb is an outstanding teacher and advocate for equity, inclusivity and diversity, efforts for which she received both Departmental and College level awards. Dr. McNabb continues to serve on the Department's Diversity Committee with a focus on building a welcoming community for all. In recognition of Dr. Anne McNabb's commitment to undergraduate education, this award will provide one student a \$6,000 stipend to pursue a research project in biological sciences.

Objectives:

- To provide a hands-on research experiences to an undergraduate student.
- To prepare a student for a career in Biological Sciences or related fields.
- To foster creative problem solving and science communication skills.

Eligibility:

- Must be a Virginia Tech undergraduate student.
- Must have already identified a [faculty member](#) in the Dept. of Biological Sciences to host the fellow during the fellowship period.
- Must be available for 10 weeks in the summer and able to commit a substantial amount of time each week. Specific time requirements or expectations should be discussed with the faculty mentor when planning the application. The fellowship is designed to run concurrently with the Office of Undergraduate Research's SURF program so that the fellow may participate in its workshops and symposia. Other summer timelines may be arranged by the faculty sponsor to align with field work, student needs, etc.
- Preference will be given to students who are among the first generation in their family to pursue a post-secondary education.
- Preference will be given to students with limited prior undergraduate research experience.

Important dates:

- Applications are due **April 16, 2026**.
- Program runs from May 26 – July 31, 2026.

Application materials:

- The applicant must submit a brief cover letter (maximum one page) that describes why they are interested in participating in independent research and how this opportunity may contribute to their career goals. Because this fellowship is targeted to help students with no—or limited—research experience and those who are first-generation college students, please include this information in your letter.
- An up-to-date resume.
- A letter of commitment (maximum one page) from the Department of Biological Sciences faculty member that will host and mentor the awardee during the summer.

Applications should be submitted electronically as a PDF containing the cover letter and resume from the student. A letter of commitment from the supporting faculty member should be submitted separately. Application materials may be sent to Dr. Richard Seyler (tad@vt.edu), Dr. Jeremy Draghi (jdraghi@vt.edu), or Dr. Joseph Hoyt (jrhoyt@vt.edu). Please contact any of the above with questions.