THE DISTINCTION

Going Beyond the Classroom

A leading institution of the California State University system, Cal State Fullerton is an intellectual and cultural center for Orange County. CSUF is a primary driver of workforce and economic development throughout the region and a national model for supporting student success through innovative high-impact educational and co-curricular experiences, including faculty-student collaborative research. The College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM) is a leading college at CSUF dedicated to high-impact research initiatives.

NSM actively incorporates research with undergraduate education. These research opportunities provide our students with a deeper and more practical understanding of the scientific and mathematic process than their peers at other institutions. We pride ourselves on a robust pure and applied research portfolio, which gives our students the opportunity to prepare for careers in industry or academia.

NSM faculty are passionate scholars who maintain high standards in their research and teaching, while placing student engagement at the heart of their own research programs. This central role for students directly connects them to their research and peers.

Our goal is to increase private funding for research to allow our faculty and students to follow their research interest and build a community that leads the way in workforce readiness.

The Opportunities

- Undergraduate Research Fellowships
- International Undergraduate Research
- NSM Field Experiences
- Graduate Fellows
- Named Endowed Professorship
- Faculty Innovation Fund
THE IMPACT

Enhancing Innovative Student and Faculty Research

Whether the lab is in Dan Black Hall, the Mojave Desert or Argentina, students develop critical thinking and confidence through participation in academically rigorous research opportunities and personal mentorship from NSM professors. Developing these skills in the diverse student population we serve is paramount to fueling STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) workforce needs of Orange County.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

$5,000 per student

Funding will impact 50 students by providing full research experiences with NSM faculty on campus and around the world. This increased funding will result in more students completing honors theses for publication, participating in global research experiences and clarifying future goals for graduate work. Support will impact students year-round.

The annual funding goal for the fellowship program is $100,000.

INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

$1,000 per student

International research provides the same benefits as on-campus research with added focus on cultural collaboration, communication, language, leadership and ethical issues. Our students often have socio-economic reasons for not considering international research. Through programs such as Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training Program (MHIRT), faculty mentorship and private funding, we can remove barriers to international study.

The annual funding goal for the international research program is $25,000.

NSM FIELD EXPERIENCES

$1,500 per experience

For environmental biologist and geologists, amongst others, field-based coursework and research experiences are an integral part of the discipline. Students rely on this experience to build sound experimental practice, following the scientific method. In addition, significant peer learning strengthens the overall learning environment during these experiences. Our goal is to match internal funds available for field experiences with private funds to grow and enhance the practical, hands-on, and out-of-classroom experiences for NSM students.

The annual funding goal for the field experiences program is $15,000.

GRADUATE FELLOWS

$10,000 per fellow

Graduate Fellows bring prestige to NSM by allowing us to recruit and retain quality graduate students. While there are federally funded fellowships available, NSM desires to build institutional capacity in order to recruit a diverse group of fellows across all our disciplines.

Our goal is to have a named annual or endowed graduate student in each of our five departments. These NSM Fellows will allow us to remain attractive and accessible to a talented and diverse graduate student population.

The annual funding goal for the graduate fellow program is $50,000.
FACULTY RESEARCH

Research stands at the academic core in NSM. Faculty research increases scientific knowledge, enhances teaching, promotes industry collaborations, and increases the value of an NSM degree. NSM faculty are tackling some of the world’s most pressing issues. From gravitational waves to breakthroughs in pathogenic bacteria and cancer treatments – NSM faculty are leading the way.

NAMED ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
$25,000 annual term naming

The modern history of endowed professorships traces its roots to the early 1500s when endowed chairs were established at Cambridge and Oxford. Endowed faculty positions are important for three reasons: they help us recruit and retain high performing faculty; create a higher professional and institutional profile and provide funding security allowing faculty to explore creative research they might not have been able to explore through traditional grant funding models.

The endowed funding goal for each endowed professorship is $1M.

FACULTY INNOVATION FUND
$2,500 per faculty project

Faculty often have hypotheses, a patent process, or intellectual property needs that require a reliable source of internal research funding to expedite the process. Many of the projects require blind trials and additional research before commercialization or grant funding can proceed. Furthermore, our junior faculty often need seed funding in order to build the reputation needed to seek large federal or foundation grants. The Faculty Innovation Fund directly impacts the agility and ability for NSM to support new and innovative faculty research.

The annual funding goal for the faculty innovation fund program is $50,000.

“What I enjoy most about research is the critical thinking that it involves and the problem solving it requires. I enjoy the research I’m doing because it’s interdisciplinary, and exposes me to different research techniques in both biology and physical chemistry.”

– No. 1 Biotech Researcher in the CSU, Biochemistry major Ashley Chui

The College

2,962 students pursuing degrees
On average 350 students graduate with baccalaureate degrees each year, and 50 with master’s degrees
17 degree and credential programs
5 departments
9 academic centers
4 transfer student support programs
5 K-12 STEM education programs
7 funded programs supporting undergraduate students
THE FUTURE

Research Strong. Workforce Ready.

Your support of research in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics ensures our students are workforce ready, increases the value of an NSM degree and confirms our commitment to valuing the unique faculty-mentored undergraduate research experience offered in NSM.

Join us in providing accessible and abiding research experiences to the next generation of diverse scientists and mathematicians — because the only way to learn science is to do science.

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