The Brackenridge Fellowship was the first interdisciplinary research program of its kind in the nation and has an esteemed reputation. These fellowships support full-time undergraduate students on the Oakland campus who are devoted to conducting an independent research or creative project under the guidance of a faculty, graduate student, or qualified research mentor.

The Brackenridge Fellowships are open to undergraduates in any major or field. Brackenridge Fellows receive a stipend of $4,000 for the summer (mid-May through early August) to assure they can devote themselves full-time to their projects and fellowship responsibilities. Fellowship recipients may take a summer course or hold a summer job, but courses or outside work cannot conflict with the requirements of the fellowship in any way. If recipients plan to take a course or be employed outside the fellowship, they should discuss these commitments with the fellowship facilitator prior to accepting the award.

In addition to working on their individual research projects, all recipients must be available to attend weekly seminars. In these seminars, students will discuss and present on their research while also learning effective strategies to communicate their research to a broad audience. Fellowship recipients will also attend lectures or workshops given by faculty mentors and researchers throughout the summer. A local kickoff for the entire group begins the summer program.

During the academic year following the summer program, all fellows will be required to present a poster at the Honors College research fair.

Projects may be analytic or purely creative. The Brackenridge supports any form of research, scholarship, or creative work that is appropriate to a student’s discipline.

Who May Apply?
Undergraduate students who have identified a faculty member, or appropriately qualified research mentor, who
has agreed to work with them during the Fellowship. The fellowship is open to students from any field and any year, including rising sophomores as well as rising seniors. Students who intend to graduate in the spring semester before the summer are not eligible. The fellowship program aligns with Pitt's 12-week summer semester and participants must be able to begin and end their participation during the first Tuesday of this semester (5/16/23). Recipients must attend in-person meetings over the summer.

Selection Criteria
Fellowship recipients are selected based on the following criteria:

- Their academic record.
- The quality and coherence of their proposal (proposals should be written for a general audience and understandable to someone outside the applicant's discipline).
- The originality and promise of their proposed projects.
- Their interest in participating in an interdisciplinary community of students in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and applied disciplines.

All types of proposals are strongly encouraged, including discipline-specific projects and interdisciplinary projects. However, all students interested in this fellowship should have a commitment to understanding how their work could benefit from understanding work done across disciplines (e.g., research from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences).

It is important to remember that unlike many other research proposals, this proposal must be written in a manner that is understandable to a broad, non-expert audience, using minimal disciplinary jargon.

Questions about the Brackenridge Summer Research Fellowship program should be directed to the Director of Honors Research Programs, Dr. Brett Say (bhs28@pitt.edu).

Deadline for Summer 2023 Fellowships

**February 27th, 2023 by 11:59 p.m.**

About Applying for Other Summer Awards
Recipients of the Brackenridge Fellowship must agree to not participate in any other summer research fellowship programs. Students wishing to be considered for both the FHC Brackenridge Fellowship and Health Sciences Research Fellowship must submit separate applications for each. The programs are distinctly different and applications should be tailored to the appropriate opportunity. The Brackenridge consists of a cohort of fellows divided evenly among the humanities, social sciences, and STEM fields, with a focus on communicating your work to a broad audience. The Health Sciences Research Fellowship focuses only on Health Sciences research and sharing research within that community.

How to Apply
In consultation with the sponsoring faculty mentor, the student must submit an application according to the instructions via the "Application Instructions" link below. All application materials must be received by the date specified above. The FHC will evaluate the proposals, and all applicants will be notified of the decisions within roughly 30 days of the application deadline.

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILED APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The Awards
Application materials required for this fellowship consist of the following items (detailed explanations of each item can be found in the application instructions and in the online application itself):

- A Project Proposal
- A Brief Statement of Interest in the Community
- An Up-to-Date Academic Transcript
A Letter of Recommendation from your Faculty or Research Mentor

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide all materials mentioned above by the application due date and to ensure that the faculty mentor's letter of recommendation is submitted. Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed.
Brackenridge Fellowship
Application Materials and Instructions

1. Brackenridge Fellowship Program Application Form (online via InfoReady)

2. Project Proposal: A 2-3 page description of the project you propose to conduct if awarded a Brackenridge Fellowship. This proposal must be typed (double-spaced, in 12-point font, with 1-inch margins), have a title and numbered pages, and show your name at the top of every page. A reference page does not count towards the page limit. Applications must adhere to the page limit requirements. The project proposal is the key element of your application and a primary consideration in the review process.

The Brackenridge Fellowship brings together students from across disciplines and requires each fellowship recipient to learn to discuss their research using language all members of an interdisciplinary community can understand. With this in mind, the use of discipline-specific jargon, terms, or acronyms common in your field should be limited and used only when necessary. Do not assume your reader has expertise in your field. Write your proposal in terms that are understandable to an intelligent and diverse audience. The project proposal is an opportunity to demonstrate your interest in becoming a member of a broad academic community. Applicants are encouraged to have peers in other disciplines review their proposals to ensure it is understandable to those outside their field.

In addition to meeting the above criteria, a competitive proposal must include sections that address, at least briefly, the following prompts:

1. A general introduction providing context for your project.
2. An explanation of how your project fits into this larger context and would contribute to an improved understanding within your field.
3. An answer to the “So What?” question (i.e., an explanation of why your project’s contribution is significant in the context you described).
4. The specific questions/goals/ objectives that your project aims to answer/achieve.
5. An explanation of the method(s) you will use to carry out your project.
6. An assessment of the feasibility of completing your project during the fellowship.
7. If your project is part of a larger group effort, you should clearly identify the aspect(s) of the project you will be responsible for and how you will work independently.
3. **Statement of Interest in the Community**: A short, typed statement (no more than 1 page, double-spaced, 12-point font, with 1-inch margins) indicating why you are interested in participating in the interdisciplinary community provided by the Brackenridge Fellowship. This is your opportunity to demonstrate your interest in collaborating with students across disciplines and what you hope to take away from the experience. Please be specific. You may want to highlight knowledge you bring to the community as well as what you hope to learn from those outside your major or area of interest.

4. **Academic Transcript**: This does not need to be an official transcript but please make sure it is up to date and shows your name, declared major(s)/minor(s)/certificate(s), and current GPA.

5. **Letter of Recommendation from Your Mentor**: A signed 1-2 page confidential letter that addresses the following points:

   - In what context and for how long have you known this student?
   - In your assessment, is the student prepared to carry out the proposed project?
   - Will you have the time and resources to mentor the student during the project?
   - What degree of independence will the student have in carrying out the project? To what extent was the student involved in developing the idea for the project?

The mentor should be a Pitt faculty member or qualified Pitt researcher/subject matter expert (ideally, someone who has taught undergraduate students). The mentor should also have an academic background appropriate for the student’s project. The mentor must submit the letter via the online application system. Mentors will receive an automated email requesting their letter once the student’s application has been submitted. If you are submitting your application at or near the deadline, your mentor will have an additional three days to submit the letter. Students are encouraged to request this letter from their mentor well in advance of the application deadline. The applicant should ensure the email provided for the research mentor is correct and that their mentor receives an automated request from the application system (**Note: Using Pitt alias emails or non-Pitt emails may incorrectly route letter requests**).

6. **Submitting the Application**: You must submit your application online before the deadline stated on the website. Do NOT mail your application or provide hard copies. Any questions regarding the application should be submitted at least 24-hours in advance to ensure a response. **Due to the number of applications received, and limited funding available, no late applications will be received for any reason**. Applicants are encouraged to anticipate potential obstacles with their submissions (e.g., power outages, computer problems, etc.).