2027 Morris Fellowship Application Guide



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CURCI
Gonzaga University

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Pursue your passion! Develop a proposal for the Morris Fellowship

Background

The Morris Fellowship is made possible by a generous donation from the Morris family to support undergraduate research in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

If you have a topic that you are passionate about, consider proposing an original scholarly project that takes you beyond the classroom and gives you the opportunity to engage in the production of knowledge. Research can take many forms; speak to some of your professors about your topic and what original research in that area might entail.

Past recipients of the Morris Fellowship have been involved in a wide variety of projects. Although the Morris Fellowship Recipients webpage lists past projects, you should consider projects that YOU are excited about - we welcome novel ideas!

Timeline

The application will open January 1, 2027 and close on February 11, 2027. Applications will be reviewed by the members of CURCI's Internal Programs subcommittee (faculty and staff). You will be notified about the status of your application in March.

Fellowship Details

- Awards are for original, student-initiated research conducted during the summer months. Priority will be given to projects in the humanities and social sciences as well as interdisciplinary projects involving at least one of these areas.
- The work is considered part-time; both the student and their faculty research mentor are compensated.
- Fellows are required to meet in-person six times during Summer Sessions 1 and 2, plus attend a celebration meeting shortly before fall classes begin.
- Final reports are due a few days before fall semester classes begin.
- Students will present their research to the Morris family at the Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Showcase (URCAS), which is held during Fall Family Weekend.
- Fellows are encouraged to present their work at a conference if possible; some travel support is possible.
- Projects that involve human subjects must be approved by Gonzaga's Institutional Review Board (IRB) before research can begin.

Student Eligibility & Expectations

- Only students with a major in the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) or an Economics major at Gonzaga University (GU) may apply.
- Students must be returning to campus for continued full-time study in the fall after the summer fellowship. Students studying abroad in the fall are not eligible.
- Students must find a full-time Gonzaga faculty member to sponsor their research project. This is typically a faculty member in CAS, but we will consider other Gonzaga faculty on a case-by case basis as long as the research topic is in a CAS discipline. Be sure to discuss your proposal with them BEFORE submitting.
- Sponsored projects must be original student-initiated research with deliverable results by the end of the summer.
- Students who have already received a Morris Fellowship are ineligible to apply again.
- Students selected as Fellows are required to attend in-person: the six Fellows meetings (at most one meeting can be attended virtually) and the Final Celebration meeting. Fellows are highly encouraged to attend the two evening social events (see dates below). Please ensure that you are available and plan accordingly.

Faculty Mentor Expectations

- Faculty mentors are expected to attend at least three of the summer Morris Community Meetings in-person as well as the Final Celebration meeting; social events are optional.
- Faculty must agree to supervise their Fellows from project start to finish, including regularly meeting with their students during Summer Sessions I and II, with a strong preference for in-person meetings whenever possible.
- Faculty mentors should not co-author any part of their Fellow's work.
- Faculty mentors will guide their Fellow in securing project-appropriate approval for conducting research, in accordance with Gonzaga University procedures and protocols.

2027 Program Specifics

- The student stipend amount is $4,300.
- The faculty honorarium is $2,700.
- Program Dates: Meetings will be held in-person at Gonzaga (except for the MAC visit).
    - Morris Community Meetings (in-person): 10am-12pm (Wednesdays) on May 19; June 2, 9, 23; July 28; Aug. 4
    - Social events (evening): June 2 (pizza + game night); July 28 (visit Museum of Arts & Culture)
    - Final Celebration meeting: Monday, Aug. 30 (~2-4pm).
- Final research reports are due on Friday, Aug. 27, 2027.
- Fellows will present their work at the Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Showcase, which is held during Fall Family Weekend (**Oct. 1, 2027** - time TBD). Poster printing will be provided free of charge.

Application Criteria

CURCI's Internal Programs Subcommittee will review all applications according to the following criteria:

1. Potential impact; alignment with Gonzaga's mission
2. Suitability of research methods
3. Suitability of timeline
4. Student ownership
5. Probability of successful completion

Application Checklist

Ready to apply? You will need the following information at hand.

Each project should be supervised from start to finish by a Gonzaga faculty research mentor. Be sure that you have discussed and refined your project proposal with this mentor BEFORE submitting. Faculty research mentors are asked to pay particular attention to issues surrounding research compliance (e.g., IRB-approval) and must assist students in securing the requisite approvals. Also, be sure that your prospective mentor is aware of the expectations listed on page 6.

☐Faculty mentor(s) name, department, email address

☐Reference name, department, email address

☐Vocational Aspirations: In ~1-3 sentences, please describe your current career goals.

☐Proposal Details. These should be geared for a general audience. One approach is to have these items ready in a Word document and then cut/paste into the Form. *Important: Do **NOT** include your name or the name (or any gender-specific references) of your faculty mentor in the text, as applications are reviewed blindly.*

- ◊ Title of proposed project

- ◊ Project overview (max: 300 words): *Give a broad introduction to and overview of your proposed project*

- ◊ Research question(s) and methods (max: 600 words): *Discuss your proposed research question(s) and methodology. Help us understand what work you are proposing by providing the following, as appropriate: any important background information, how your project fits into what has already been done, what data and methods you plan to use, major outputs and/or outcomes that you hope will come from your work, and/or a few references (or other resources) that might be useful in this endeavor.*

◊ Project alignment and potential impact (~4-7 sentences): *Address the significance of your project, including any potential impact inside and/or outside the Gonzaga community, or on the academic discipline. How does this project align with Gonzaga's mission? Also, how do you envision that this project will impact your future trajectory, e.g., open doors and/or be a springboard to future endeavors?*

◊ Proposed timeline (max: 300 words): *Provide a rough month-by-month draft timeline of the work you plan to do, including when you hope to achieve key milestones.*

◊ Ownership of project (~4-6 sentences): *The nature of the Morris program requires that fellows must have a great deal of personal initiative. Please describe the origin of your project idea and discuss how you envision working with your proposed mentor on this project.*

◊ Student Academic Background (~3-5 sentences): *How does this project fit with other work you have done and/or experiences you have had?*

☐Determine whether your project will need IRB approval. If you are uncertain, discuss with your faculty mentor and/or review the Institutional Review Board (IRB) website.