

Anderson Summer Science Program 2026

The **Anderson Summer Science Program** supports student research in the sciences conducted under the guidance of a member of the Denison science faculty. A student's research experience includes conducting a research project, residing on campus, participating in the scholarly community on campus, and presenting the research at the Summer Scholars Symposium. In 2026 students working the standard research experience (10 weeks) will be paid a stipend of \$5,000 (\$500/week) and provided on-campus housing. Each student-mentor team also has a modest budget to cover supplies, software, and other items needed to perform the research. Students conducting shorter projects are paid a stipend adjusted for the length of time. Because Denison treats a summer research assistantship as **full-time scholarly work, students are not permitted to take on-line classes or hold additional jobs/internships during the research period because these likely would interfere with the time students need to devote to their summer research projects.**

General Program Expectations:

- All science majors are eligible; preference is given to current juniors and sophomores.
 - A current continuing member of the science faculty who will be present on campus during the summer must serve as the research mentor for the student. As with other summer scholar programs at Denison, science mentors are expected to routinely meet with the research student, with the timing of these meetings tuned to the rhythms of the research process.
 - Students will live on campus during the residential research experience, although some students may need to travel off campus to collect data. Typically, such trips do not exceed 2 weeks of a 10-week research experience. Trips to collect data should be described in the project proposal (see Item 18 - Proposal Guidelines). Students also are permitted to travel to a research conference since such experiences are a reasonable form of professional development.
 - To culminate the research experience each student presents a research poster at the Summer Research Symposium typically held on the first or second Thursday in September during the Common Hour. Each student also submits an electronic copy of the poster for archiving and completes a survey to evaluate her/his research experience. Poster creation and presentation is mandatory, although students studying abroad in Fall 2026 are exempt from the poster presentation but are highly encouraged to ask mentors to hang their poster.
 - No academic credit is awarded for the summer research experience.
 - Each student may submit only one proposal.
- For 2026 the window for the work-week portion of summer research runs from Monday, May 18 – Friday, July 31***. The proposed research should fit within this 11-week window and students may propose a project of 10, 9, or 8 weeks. Alternate timelines are possible, but students and mentors must discuss alternatives with the Anderson Coordinator (Dr. Rettig).

How to Apply:

1. Contact a faculty member in the sciences to discuss possible research projects and activities.
2. Write a proposal describing the research project, following the guidelines given on page 2.
3. By **Monday, February 2, 2026 (11:59 pm)** use the Application Form posted at MyDenison→ Campus Resources→Science at Denison →Anderson Summer Science Program to submit your completed proposal. The last question on the form allows you to upload the proposal. Questions? Contact Dr. Jessica Rettig [rettig@denison.edu].
4. Once you submit your proposal, also email a copy to the Academic Administrative Assistant of the department/program of your research mentor.

Proposal Deadline – Monday, February 2, 2026 (11:59 pm)
Anderson Summer Science Program
Proposal Guidelines - 2026

I. Cover Sheet – Please include the following 14 items on the proposal's cover sheet.

- 1. Title of the Project:**
- 2. Your name:**
- 3. Denison ID#:**
- 4. Slayter Mailbox:**
- 5. Email address:**
- 6. Your gender identity:**
- 7. Your major:**
- 8. GPA in your major** (as of the end of Fall 2025):
- 9. Cumulative GPA** (as of the end of Fall 2025):
- 10. Your anticipated year of graduation:**
- 11. Your anticipated semester of graduation** (fall or spring):
- 12. Research mentor's last name:**
- 13. Mentor's departmental/program affiliation:**
- 14. Expected length of your summer research experience:**

Standard research experience: 10 weeks. Some student-mentor teams conduct a 9 or 8 week research experience.

II. Body of the Proposal

- 15. Description of the proposed project.** This section may include the objectives, goals, or hypothesis; the question of interest; the scientific context or background for the project; and the methods, techniques, or activities used in the project. *Please consult your research mentor about the organizational format he/she prefers for the body of the proposal.* Also, your mentor should inform you about any specific departmental expectations for the proposal.
- 16. Literature Cited or Bibliography** of relevant papers using a citation format appropriate for your science discipline.

III. Optional Items

- 17. Timeline** of activities for your project tasks if required by your mentor.
- 18. Description of any extended travel/trips** you need to collect data or samples.
- 19. If the project has budgetary needs beyond the standard \$500, please include a budget proposal and justification for any funds needed beyond the standard \$500.** If your budget is LESS THAN \$500 total, please disregard this directive.

Proposal Evaluation:

The research mentor's department/program is responsible for reviewing the proposal. Departments rank the submitted proposals and report those rankings to the Anderson Science Program Coordinator. The Coordinator uses the ranks to determine which proposals are funded. Not all applicants will receive funding, typically the science endowments fund about 55 students, but historically 60-75 students submit applications. Students should learn their status by late February.

Need more information? Contact Dr. Jessica Rettig, Anderson Science Program Coordinator, Talbot Hall 513, ext. 5618, rettig@denison.edu or Jeni Miller, Science Initiatives Coordinator, Ebaugh 204, ext. 8021, millerjj@denison.edu

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Summer Timeline 2026

The Anderson Summer Research Program begins the Monday following Denison's graduation. All projects must be conducted between May 18 (M) and July 31 (F), an 11-week window.

*Typical timelines (as shown on the 2026 Anderson Research Application Form):

start date end date # weeks

May 18 (M) – July 24 (F) = 10 weeks
May 20 (W) – July 28 (T) = 10 weeks
May 25 (M) – July 31 (F) = 10 weeks

May 18 (M) – July 17 (F) = 9 weeks
May 20 (W) – July 21 (T) = 9 weeks
May 25 (M) – July 24 (F) = 9 weeks

May 18 (M) – July 10 (F) = 8 weeks
May 20 (W) – July 14 (T) = 8 weeks
May 25 (M) – July 17 (F) = 8 weeks

Other important dates:

February 2, 2026 (Monday) - Proposal Deadline (11:59 pm). The proposal is submitted online using a Google Form in which the last question allows students to upload their proposal.

September 10, 2026 (Thursday) – Summer Scholars Symposium at the Mitchell Center. Common Hour (lunch provided). Students will create and present a research poster about their summer project.