

September 6, 2019

Dear Christ College Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors:

Christ College invites you to apply for the 2020 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), an important annual event and excellent opportunity for CC students to present their work in a professional, academic setting. Each year our college sends a group of students to this prestigious, national student research conference, fully funding those students for the cost of travel, lodging, and registration.

NCUR 2020 will be held March 26-28 at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. This year Christ College will be sending a limited number to the conference, as determined by a committee of Christ College faculty members on a competitive basis. We encourage you to apply for one of these select positions by **digitally submitting one 250-300 word abstract for a paper or project you have produced for a class to [Christ.College@valpo.edu](mailto:Christ.College@valpo.edu) (subject heading - "NCUR Submission"). Submissions are being accepted immediately, and will be until 5:00pm on Friday, October 4, 2019.**

Humanities, social science and STEM papers or projects, produced in CC classes or otherwise, are all welcome, and the presentation a student gives at NCUR can be either an oral or poster presentation. But note: Christ College will accept **only one abstract per student**, inviting you to submit only your very best work. For advice on how to write your abstract, consult the professor whose class you wrote the paper for, or consult Prof. Smith.

Application for NCUR 2020 will occur over a three-step process:

1. Email your abstract (as noted above) to the CC Office by **Oct 4**. A CC committee will select a number of the total submitted abstracts, judging primarily on merit but also for a fair range of paper topics. Those students whose abstracts are chosen will then work with Professor Smith to hone their abstracts further. (They can work as well with the professor whose class they authored the paper in.)
2. If your abstract is accepted, you must apply for supplementary funding from the VU Creative Work and Research Committee (CWRC). This will principally entail the submission of a slightly shorter abstract (200 words or less). This application is due **Oct. 31**.
3. You will then submit a honed and polished abstract (200-300 words) to NCUR before **Friday December 6** (11:59 pm MSG), at which time NCUR will make final decisions about whom they invite to participate in the conference.

More details about the application process to CWRC and NCUR will be provided upon acceptance.

The NCUR experience is something past students have found both professionally helpful and personally enriching. It's an opportunity we encourage all CC students to consider.

Note that if you apply and are accepted to NCUR you are committing to attend the entire conference and to travel together with the CC cohort.

For more information about the conference, see:

<http://www.cur.org/what/events/students/ncur/2020/>.

For more information about the VU Creative Work and Research funding application, see:

<https://www.valpo.edu/creative-work-and-research-committee/student-grants/undergrad-research-expense-grant-proposal-format/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julien Smith".

Julien Smith  
Coordinator of Undergraduate Research  
Christ College  
Valparaiso University