

SMU[®] Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute

The Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute (DCII) is now accepting applications for the **Hamilton Undergraduate Research Scholars Program** for the **2026–27 academic year** or single semester. The deadline for submission is **Friday, August 7**.

The Hamilton Scholars Program was established to provide hands-on research experience to Dedman College undergraduate students, enabling them to collaborate with top faculty researchers and contribute to the creation of cutting-edge knowledge. The Program seeks to support projects on topics of interdisciplinary interest and impact that help Dedman College faculty members to advance their own research while simultaneously providing a meaningful learning experience for the undergraduates. Please note that student-led projects for which the faculty member's only role is as a mentor are not eligible for Hamilton awards.

Hamilton Scholars will have access to up to \$3,000 for the full academic year (or \$1,500 for a single semester), funded by the Hamilton Program and the Office of Engaged Learning's Undergraduate Research Assistantship Program. Scholars may work up to 10 hours per week during the semester, at a rate of \$12–15 per hour. Students who are eligible for Federal Work Study can earn their FWS award through these wages. In addition to hourly compensation, up to \$200 from the total available funds may be budgeted for research expenses. Please note that students must be physically present in the United States for the majority of their work hours.

Applications may also request additional funding for student travel to conduct research or present work at a professional conference, though available support is limited and travel awards will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Hamilton Scholars are automatically designated by the Office of Engaged Learning (OEL) as Undergraduate Research Assistants (URAs) for payroll purposes. You may indicate on the Hamilton Scholar application form whether you would like the student to be considered for a URA if you are not awarded a Hamilton Scholarship (in this case, URAs require a 50% match from a department, school, or research grant). A separate application is not required, but a URA award in this circumstance is determined by OEL. More information on the URA Program can be found on the OEL website: <https://www.smu.edu/URA>.

Hamilton Scholars are expected to participate periodically throughout the year in Hamilton Scholars cohort meetings, and to submit a brief reflection on their research at the end of the year. Scholars who are returning to work on a project for which they previously received a Hamilton Scholar award are also expected to present a poster at the Undergraduate Poster Session during SMU's Research and Innovation Week in Spring 2027. The DCII will additionally

host a reception for Scholars and their mentors during Spring 2027, at which select Scholars will be asked to give oral or poster presentations.

For more information on the Hamilton Scholars Program, see the DCII website:

<https://www.smu.edu/Dedman/Research/Institutes-and-Centers/DCII/Fellowships/Hamilton>

Application Submission Guidelines

Proposals (maximum length two pages, single spaced with 11- or 12-point font) should **explicitly** address each of the following items:

1. Describe the overall research project and its value
2. Describe the interdisciplinary dimensions of the project
3. Describe the specific contribution(s) the student will make toward this project during the program period, including a basic timeline
4. Describe the student's relevant background and qualifications for the proposed research
5. Describe how the proposed student research will provide a meaningful benefit to the faculty member's research program
6. Describe how the proposed student research will provide a meaningful research or learning experience for the student
7. If requesting student travel funding, provide a justification for the proposed travel and an itemized budget of anticipated travel expenses
8. If submitting proposals for more than one student, provide a ranking of the proposals

Faculty (not students) should submit applications via the following link:

<https://www.smu.edu/Dedman/Research/Institutes-and-Centers/DCII/Fellowships/Hamilton/Application>

Questions about the program or application process should be directed to Dr. Karisa Cloward, Ruth Collins Altshuler Director of the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute, at kcloward@smu.edu.