**NIBLACK RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM**  
Beginning Summer or Fall 2021

**Application Guidelines**

I. General Information

The Niblack Research Scholars (NRS) program provides support to Oklahoma State University undergraduates to conduct research in one of OSU’s research laboratories under the general guidance of a member of the research faculty and with day-to-day mentoring by a graduate student.

The NRS receives a stipend of $2,000 per semester for the academic year, plus $4,000 for two summer months ($8,000 total). The award winners must commit to working in a laboratory for the two semesters and the two summer months. The graduate student mentor receives a research assistantship stipend of $2,100 to be received during the summer months (3 x $700/month).

The NRS program offers two schedules: Schedule A is a summer/fall/spring program; Schedule B is a fall/spring/summer program. Scholars must commit to be in person the following fall semester to present their research to Dr. Niblack at his annual visit.

A comprehensive research university like OSU is in a unique position to offer undergraduate students an exciting academic experience outside the traditional classroom. The purpose of this award, made possible by the generosity of Dr. John Niblack, is to give outstanding students an appreciation of scientific research in a laboratory environment at an early stage of their academic careers. Research experience is invaluable in helping the students choose a career path for themselves, in improving their likelihood of success in the workforce, and in helping the students decide if graduate school is the correct choice for them.

These awards are not intended to provide faculty members with assistants, but to provide students with a valuable educational experience not available to most undergraduate students.

Students selected for the award must arrange with their faculty sponsor to receive three hours of academic credit (1 hour each fall, spring, and summer semester), or enroll in a specific section of UNIV 2910 Niblack Research Scholars established by the Vice President for Research office.

Award recipients must report to their faculty mentors by the end of the first week of each semester or the award will be terminated. A brief status report will be required before each semester’s stipend is approved. Students must present their findings to Dr. Niblack at an event the following fall (typically September or October).

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**About John Niblack …**

John Niblack retired in 2002 as Vice Chairman of Pfizer Inc., a $32 billion pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, manufactures, and markets leading prescription medicines for humans and animals and many of the world’s best-known consumer brands. As Vice Chairman, Dr. Niblack was responsible for Pfizer’s Global Research and Development Division and pharmaceutical Licensing and Development. As an active scientist from 1967-1980, Niblack rose in the company through a succession of positions in which he directed research into drugs for viral illnesses, cancer and autoimmune disorders. In 1980 he was appointed director of research for the company’s US laboratories. In 1990, he was named president of Pfizer’s Central Research Division and in 1993 was promoted to executive VP of Pfizer Inc. He has a BS in chemistry from OSU and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Illinois.
II. Eligibility

Eligible students must be enrolled full-time, must have at least 24 semester credit hours earned (cumulative graduation/retention) at the start of the program and must have a degree plan with the anticipated graduation date of December 2022 or after.

III. Application

The NRS application consists of:

1. The completed and signed Niblack Research Scholar Application
2. A résumé
3. The completed and signed Faculty Sponsor Form
4. One letter of recommendation from an OSU faculty member (other than your faculty sponsor)
5. OSU Transcript (unofficial is acceptable)

*Step 1:* Students must meet with the Department Head of their desired department to discuss academic goals and ideas regarding a potential research area. The Department Head will refer the student to selected faculty members to review lab options and choose a faculty sponsor willing to provide necessary oversight of the student in the lab and a graduate student mentor. (The graduate student is selected by the faculty sponsor, not the undergraduate student.) The research project and schedule is determined between the student and faculty sponsor.

*Step 2:* After a faculty sponsor, research lab, and graduate mentor have been determined, the student must complete the NRS application and submit a resume and transcript. The faculty sponsor must complete the faculty sponsor form. The student must also arrange for a separate letter of recommendation from an OSU faculty member who is familiar with the student. The applicant must submit a complete application packet to the Office of the Vice President for Research by the deadline. Late applications will not be accepted.

IV. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. The student’s qualifications to successfully conduct the project.
2. The educational value for the student.
3. The faculty sponsor’s commitment to the educational experience for the student.
4. The letter of recommendation from another faculty member at OSU.
5. The sponsor’s and graduate student mentor’s availability to oversee the research.

V. Application Deadline and Award Information

- Application deadline: 5:00 p.m. on February 12, 2021.
- Scholarship winners will be announced in April.
- Stipends will be issued toward the beginning of each semester.

Office of the Vice President for Research
http://research.okstate.edu/niblack (405) 744-6501 vprprograms@okstate.edu