NIBLACK RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Beginning Summer 2027 or Fall 2027

Application Guidelines

1. General Information

The Niblack Research Scholars (NRS) program provides support to Oklahoma State University undergraduate students to conduct research in one of OSU's research laboratories under the guidance and mentoring of a research faculty member.

Scholars receive a stipend of $2,000 per semester for the academic year (i.e., fall and spring semesters) and $4,000 for two summer months ($8,000 total). NRS must commit to working in a laboratory for fall and spring semesters and two summer months.

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 being in person the following fall semester to present their research to Dr. Niblack during 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 for 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, improving their likelihood of success in the workforce, and helping the students decide if graduate school is the correct choice for them.

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

Students selected for the award must enroll in three hours of academic credit (1 hour each fall, spring, and summer semester). A UNIV 2910 Niblack Research Scholars course is established by the Vice President for Research's office each semester for this purpose.

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. Scholars must return the following fall (generally in September or October) and participate in Niblack Research Scholars Day by giving oral presentations of their research to Dr. Niblack during his annual visit.

2. Research Areas and Eligibility

The scholar's research mentor must be a faculty member in one of the following departments/schools: Animal and Food Sciences; Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Biology; Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering; Chemical Engineering; Chemistry; Electrical and Computer Engineering; Entomology and Plant Pathology; Geology; Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering; Microbiology and Molecular Genetics; Natural Resource Ecology and Management; Nutritional Sciences; Physics; Physiological Sciences; Plant and Soil Sciences; and Veterinary Pathobiology.

Eligible students are those (a) enrolled full-time, (b) having earned at least 28 credit hours (i.e., cumulative graduation/retention credit hours) at the start of the program, and (c) conducting research under the guidance of a faculty member in one of the above departments. Preferred applicants will have a degree plan with an anticipated graduation date of December 2028 or after.

3. Application

The Niblack Research Scholars application consists of:

1. The completed Niblack Research Scholar Application (including the Essay)
2. A résumé
3. OSU Transcript (unofficial is acceptable)
4. The completed and signed Faculty Sponsor Form
5. One letter of recommendation from an OSU faculty member ***other than*** your faculty sponsor who is familiar with the student's academic work

Step 1: Students should 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 students to selected faculty members to review lab options and choose a faculty sponsor willing to provide necessary oversight of the student in the lab. The research project and schedule are determined between the student and faculty sponsor.

Step 2: After a faculty sponsor and research lab have been determined, the student must complete the NRS application and submit a resume and transcript. As part of the online application, the student will provide the names and email addresses of 1) the faculty sponsor, and 2) the faculty member (other than the faculty sponsor) who will write and submit a letter of recommendation. The online application system will automatically contact/notify these faculty members and request they submit their respective components (i.e., Faculty Sponsor Form from the faculty sponsor; letter of recommendation from the second faculty member). Complete application packets with all five (5) components must be received via the online application portal by the deadline. Late applications will not be accepted.

4. 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 faculty sponsor's availability to oversee the research.

5. Application Deadline and Award Information

- Apply online here.
- Application deadline: 11:59 p.m. on Friday, February 5, 2027.
- Scholarship winners will be announced in April.
- Stipends will be issued toward the beginning of each semester.

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.