2015-2016 Valente Center Student Research Assistantships
Call for Proposals

Deadline: Friday, August 28, 2015

undergraduate research, n. 1. An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline. (Council on Undergraduate Research)

Purpose
Bentley is a unique and exciting environment for undergraduate research in the arts & sciences. The goal of the Valente Center Student Research Assistantship Program is to provide motivated Bentley undergraduates with meaningful research experiences alongside faculty mentors. Faculty benefit from student contributions as they work exclusively on research project(s) outlined by faculty members in their applications. Undergraduate research can take many forms, but in general, it teaches research practice and is a form of experiential and active learning. Therefore the work of undergraduate student research assistants should reflect the scholarly environment of the university; research assistantships are not equivalent to work-study positions. In some cases, undergraduate research assistants may work in research teams, but they are not “shared” among faculty members, as is the case with some departmental work-study students.

Eligibility
All fulltime arts & sciences faculty are eligible for the student research assistantships as well as fulltime faculty working on interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research projects involving arts & sciences fields.

Amount of Funding
Awards will generally be made for 80-120 hours of student research time for the 2015-16 academic year. Awards will be made by the second week of September (for a full academic year, rather than one semester) to give students and faculty members the time to develop a productive working relationship.

Proposal Requirements (roughly 2-3 pages)

- Name, department and working title of research project
- Brief description of the project and role of an undergraduate research assistant
- List of desired skills and interests (e.g., library research skills; web database research skills; foreign languages; familiarity with field or subfield; interview and observational skills; specific software knowledge—spreadsheets, SPSS, etc.)
- Student learning goals (e.g. disciplinary knowledge, research practice, skills)
- Expected timeline of work over the academic year with examples of specific tasks to be performed
- Number of hours requested, with a maximum of 80-120 hours per year
- Brief plan for supervision and mentoring, including frequency of meetings
- Location of work (if any work will be performed off-campus)
- Potential candidates, if you have a specific research assistant in mind
**Student Hiring Process**
Resumes will be solicited from students in early September (with priority given to Federal Work Study students) and made available for the selected faculty to review mid- to late-September. The Valente Center will pay them **$12 per hour** for their work (an increase from $10 per hour in AY 2014-15). The stipend received from the Valente Center will not affect the financial aid or work-study eligibility of student research assistants, although they will be required to report it as taxable income and may not work more than 20 hours a week during the semesters.

**Application Process and Deadline**
Email complete proposal to Dave Szymanski (dszymanski@bentley.edu) and Janice McMahon (JMcMahon@bentley.edu) by Friday, August 28, 2015.

**Decision Process**
Applications will be reviewed and final decisions made by the Valente Center Advisory Board in consultation with the director. Notification will be made in the second week of September.

**Questions**
For eligibility or research project questions, contact Dave Szymanski (dszymanski@bentley.edu)
For student hiring procedures, contact Janice McMahon (JMcMahon@bentley.edu)