

# First Year FURF: Student Application

**Application Deadline: October 30, 2024 at 5pm**

Thank you for your interest in the First Year FURF Program, designed to provide first year students early exposure to research in your chosen discipline.

### **Eligibility**

- Undergraduate first year freshmen or first year transfer students (this includes transfer students who joined VT last spring or this fall).
- Students in good academic standing (not on academic probation).
- Students who will be enrolled full time in Spring 2025, when the research will take place.

All majors are welcome and preference is given to students who have no prior research experience.

### **Benefits**

Benefits to students include immersive training, introduction to authentic research at an introductory level and manageable scale, increased confidence and awareness of research, early faculty relationship building, and sparking a desire to pursue additional research opportunities, which all lead to increased retention.

Program participants will receive a \$1,000 fellowship. **NOTE:** Any financial payment could impact financial aid awards so students should consult with their financial aid advisor before accepting a fellowship.

### **Expectations**

- Students must engage in research with their faculty mentor for approximately 5 hours each week throughout the spring semester, starting the first week of classes and continuing throughout the semester, ending during the last week of classes. Research hours will be negotiated between student and faculty mentor.
- Students must complete program assessment measures as assigned, including a short reflective essay by the conclusion of the program.
- Per VT policy, students receiving the First Year FURF fellowship will not be able to simultaneously receive research academic credit for work on that specific project during the Spring.
- At the end of the semester, students will be invited to present their work at the annual Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship conference. Participation is optional.

\* This form will record your name, please fill your name.

## Personal Information

1. Your Last Name \*

2. Your First Name \*

3. Your VT Email Address \*

4. Your home college

- Agriculture and Life Sciences
- Architecture, Arts and Design
- Engineering
- Honors
- Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Pamplin College of Business
- Science
- Vet Med

5. Your Primary Major \*

6. When did you start at Virginia Tech? Semester, Year (eg Fall, 2023)

7. When do you plan to graduate from Virginia Tech? Semester, Year (eg Spring, 2027)

8. Are you a transfer student \*

- Yes
- No

9. Please verify that you meet the program's eligibility criteria by checking each applicable box below. You must meet all of the listed criteria to be considered for this program. \*

- I am currently in my first year at Virginia Tech, as a first year freshman (started at VT in Fall 2024) or first year transfer student (i.e. as a transfer student, I started at VT in Spring or Fall 2024).
- I am in good academic standing (i.e. I am not on academic probation).
- I intend to register as a full time student in the Spring 2025 semester.

## Prior Research Experience

10. Priority will be given to students who have no prior ***undergraduate*** research experience. Do you have any prior research experience, as an undergraduate or from community college or high school? \*

Yes

No

11. If yes, please briefly describe your research experience- when you did it, what was your project, etc.

### Project Selection

Based on the list of available projects posted on the FY FURF program webpage (<https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/research-and-engagement/student-research-and-engagement/research-opportunities/virginia-tech-research-opportunities/first-year-furf.html#student>), please indicate your preferred project choices (up to three) and briefly explain why you are interested in each project and, if relevant based on the project description, how you meet the preferred or required skills for that project.

You are NOT restricted to projects in your major, but please consider any preferred qualifications listed in each project description. When you select your projects, please also consider any time restrictions listed in the project description which could impact your ability to participate in that project.

If you are selected to participate in First Year FURF, we will use your rankings to match you with a project, making every attempt to place you with your top choice. Indicating only one choice will not give you priority for that project and may reduce your chances of being selected to participate in the program.

12. Please indicate the project number for your **first** choice and explain why this project is of interest to you. If relevant, explain or describe how you meet the preferred skills to be successful in this project. \*

13. Please indicate the project number for your **second** choice and explain why this project is of interest to you. If relevant, explain or describe how you meet the preferred skills to be successful in this project.

14. Please indicate the project number for your **third** choice and explain why this project is of interest to you. If relevant, explain or describe how you meet the preferred skills to be successful in this project.

15. While unlikely, it is possible that we will be unable to match you to any of your top three choices. If this is the case, would you like us to match you to another listed project that we feel might be an appropriate match?

- Yes, if you are unable to match me with one of my top three choices, please match me with another suitable project.
- No, please do not match me with any other project than my top choices. I understand that this may result in me not being matched to any project.

16. It is unlikely that all students who apply to First Year FURF will be successfully matched to a faculty mentor based on the limited number of available spots in the program. If you are not selected to participate, are you interested in having the program administrators share your information with faculty/departments at Virginia Tech who may be able to offer you a paid or unpaid research opportunity outside the FY FURF program?
- No, please do not share my information. I am only interested in the First Year FURF program at this time.
- Yes, please share my information if I am not selected to participate in the First Year FURF program.

## Personal Statements

17. In 1-5 sentences, describe what you hope to gain from participating in this research experience. You may wish to consider practical skills, future plans, etc. \*

18. In 1-5 sentences, please explain why you should be selected for this opportunity. You may consider discussing aspects of the project(s) you are interested in, your career goals, or share any relevant information that may help the selection committee. \*

## Application certification

19. By typing your name here you agree to the expectations of this program and commit to engaging in undergraduate research with your assigned faculty mentor during the Spring semester, should you be selected to participate. \*

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