



Southern California Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry 2017 Undergraduate Student Research Grant Award

Background

The Southern California Regional Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SoCal SETAC) is a regional, scientific non-profit organization established to provide a forum for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of environmental problems, management and regulation of natural resources, education, research and development, and manufacturing and distribution in Southern California. The primary goals of SoCal SETAC are:

- Promote research, education, training and development of the environmental sciences, specifically environmental toxicology and chemistry.
- Encourage interactions among environmental scientists and disseminate information on environmental toxicology and chemistry.
- Sponsor scientific and educational programs and provide a forum for communication among professionals in government, business, academia, and other segments of the environmental science community involved in the use, protection and management of the environment and for the protection and welfare of the general public.

In order to encourage young scientists in toxicology and chemistry, SoCal SETAC is offering this grant to undergraduate students. The grant is meant to provide additional resources for purchase of supplies, equipment, laboratory analysis, travel and other items normally unavailable to young researchers. It is not meant for wage or income.

Grant Awards

Up to \$1,000 will be awarded based on minimum qualification criteria and competitive evaluations (see below). Students must present their results at SoCal SETAC's 2018 Annual Meeting (typically held in late April or early May). This award is for undergraduate students (pursuing a bachelor of science in a field related to SoCal SETAC's mission); a separate grant is available for graduate students. The work may be completed at the University or outside the University such as their place of employment.

All Grant proposals must arrive no later than 11:59 PM on July 10, 2017. Proposals must be submitted electronically in pdf format to the SoCal SETAC Chapter President – Rachel Adams (rachel.adams@lmu.edu). All components of the proposal should be combined into one pdf file (with the exception of the letter of commitment which should be emailed separately).

Minimum Requirements

- a) Candidate must be currently enrolled as an undergraduate student in an accredited college or university.
- b) The work location must be insured.
- c) The applicant must have a mentor such as a teacher, faculty member, advisor, or work supervisor. A letter of commitment from the mentor should be emailed directly to Rachel Adams (radams@lmu.edu).

Grant Submittal Package

The grant proposal should be no longer than 5 pages, exclusive of additional resumes and commitment letter(s) from sponsor(s). The grant proposal package should include the following elements: proposal title page, concept proposal, qualifications, and research schedule.

1) Proposal Title Page (1 page max)

The applicant shall provide the following information on their title page:

Title of proposal, submittal date, full name, affiliation, mailing and email addresses and phone number for applicant, full name, title, affiliation and email address for mentor.

2) Concept Proposal (2 pages max)

The concept proposal should address the following four elements:

Problem Statement. This section identifies the need for and timeliness of the proposed study.

Summarize the environmental problem being addressed and identify the data or knowledge gap to be filled. A brief synthesis of key literature is appropriate.

Proposed Hypothesis or Question to be Answered. State clearly and concisely the objective and/or hypotheses to be tested by the proposed work. Describe what actions, if any, may be taken as a result of this work.

Approach. Describe the approach to be utilized to address the project objective/hypothesis. Include study design elements for lab and/or field investigations, or constructs and key parameters for modeling efforts. This section should be used to introduce your reader to the “big picture”. For example, a description of the chemical and concentrations selected would be appropriate for laboratory-based bioassay. For field based studies, a description and rationale for selection of sample sites might be appropriate.

3) Qualifications (1 page max)

Applicants shall provide a brief resume (1-page), containing degrees earned, grade point averages, outside employment, research experience, and volunteer service. Applicants may include a one-page resume/curriculum vitae for their mentor(s) if they wish to cite the qualifications and experience of their mentor(s) to supplement their own background.

4) Schedule (1 page max)

Each proposal must include a schedule of tasks to be completed, which will be used to judge the ability of the applicant to manage their workload and complete the project in a timely fashion. The timeline may be in the form of a table or graph (Gantt Chart). The timeline must include beginning and end dates for each task or project milestone (e.g. completion of an experiment).

Grant Proposal Evaluation

A panel of SoCal SETAC members will evaluate each proposal. Each proposal will be scored on a scale of 100 points using the following point allocation:

Concept Proposal (65 points)

The concept proposal must be an original piece of work. Scoring will be based on three factors: a) clarity of the problem statement and study objectives and b) soundness, innovation and ingenuity of the approach.

Qualifications (25 points)

Points will be awarded based on the depth and appropriateness of the applicant's education, training and achievement.

Schedule (10 points)

Points will be awarded on the likelihood of project completion as indicated by the schedule, given the proposed approach.

All proposals will be scored and announcement of award made within four weeks of the proposal deadline. All proposals submitted will be notified as to their award status.

Proposal Checklist

- 1) Proposal Title Page
- 2) Concept Proposal
- 3) Qualifications
- 4) Schedule
- 5) Mentor Letter of Commitment