

The Jenessa Shapiro Undergraduate Research Scholarship

To learn about Professor Shapiro, please click [here](#).

Consistent with the ASU Charter, the Department of Psychology is committed to ensuring opportunity in psychology research for all undergraduates including those with personal backgrounds lesser reflected in scientific psychology. Toward this end, the Department designed the ENERGIZE Research Initiative through which students are paired with research laboratories to both energize the student's interest in scientific psychology and to energize the laboratory's research by considering new perspectives.

The Jenessa Shapiro Undergraduate Research Scholarship was created to help ENERGIZE students who face financial challenges that reduce their ability to take advantage of research opportunities. Each of up to four \$5000 scholarships supports an ENERGIZE student with documented financial need and demonstrated potential in psychology. Funding will allow students financial and time flexibility to devote substantial effort to research endeavors. The funding also creates a pathway for mentorship with faculty that supports further engagement with the major and profession of psychology. Submitted applications by **all** students who meet the application criteria will receive consideration for the Jenessa Shapiro Undergraduate Research Scholarship without regard to **any** characteristic of the applicant's background.

Application Criteria and Expectations

Students wishing to apply for the Jenessa Shapiro Undergraduate Research Scholarship **must** meet the following criteria to be considered:

1. Students must be enrolled undergraduates at ASU for the duration of the scholarship award period. Non-enrolled undergraduates and/or post-undergraduate degree students are not eligible for Jenessa Shapiro Undergraduate Research Scholarship funding.
2. The student has applied to the ENERGIZE program and has been accepted into an ASU Department of Psychology ENERGIZE research lab.
3. Students must be identified by a faculty member as demonstrating significant potential in psychology research and invited by the faculty member to apply for the Jenessa Shapiro Undergraduate Research Scholarship. *Students may encourage faculty nominations.*
4. Identified students **MUST** meet one or both of the following Arizona State University financial need criteria (1) Very High or High Financial Need or (2) Unmet Financial Need. Students who feel they qualify as Very High / High Need, but do not have FAFSA documentation on file with ASU, will need to furnish the Scholarship Committee with ASU documentation of their (1) Cost of Attendance, (2) documentation of their anticipated / expected financial aid, as well as (3) any other scholarship, tuition reduction, financial aid or the like anticipated during the scholarship period. From this information the Scholarship Committee will determine the level of unmet need.

5. Students should note that Jenessa Shapiro Undergraduate Research Scholarship funds are first applied to any outstanding tuition account balances at ASU before any funds are distributed directly to students for personal use. Nonetheless, all scholarship winners are expected to reduce outside work hours and participate in laboratories for a minimum of 10 hours weekly.
6. Students are expected to continue with the research lab through the academic year. The 10-hour weekly commitment to research includes: work in the lab, attending lab meetings, meetings with the faculty mentor, independent research, community outreach, and other research-related activities.
7. Students are expected to present their research at Celebrating Psychology Honors in April and/or the Psi Chi sponsored Arizona Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (AZPURC).
8. Students are expected to create an opportunity to extend access to psychological research into a non-academic community. For example, the student may participate in the ASU Open Door, present findings in an academic course, present findings in the student's home community, and so on.
9. The faculty member must provide a letter of endorsement addressing the student's potential for research and commenting on criteria (6) - (8).
10. Shapiro Scholarship recipients and other students who have received support from the Shapiro fund are ineligible to reapply for Scholarship funding in subsequent years.
11. Students NOT selected as scholarship recipients may re-apply the following academic year. Students will receive feedback regarding their applications.

Application and Project Timeline

The 2026 deadline for submission of all application materials is **Friday, May 1, 2026**, with awards announced near Friday, May 8, 2026. Scholarship applications should be sent to the Scholarship Committee at (ENERGIZE@asu.edu).

1. Interview and begin participation in an ENERGIZE research lab in the early part of the Spring Academic Semester (if not before). Faculty will identify students who demonstrate potential within psychology research to nominate for the Jenessa Shapiro Undergraduate Research Scholarship. Students should feel free to encourage faculty nominations.
- 2. Completed application materials including the Application Form and Faculty Letter of Endorsement are submitted to the Scholarship Committee (ENERGIZE@asu.edu) no later than 11:59 PM on Friday, May 1, 2026.**
3. We anticipate that scholarship recipient(s) will be notified by email near Friday, May 8, 2026. The Scholarship award will be for one of two award periods:
 - A. Fall / Spring Award Track 1: Awardees will receive funding for the academic year following award notification (e.g., beginning Fall semester with continued funding for Spring semester should expectations be met satisfactorily).
 - B. Summer / Fall Award Track 2: Awardees will receive funding for an accelerated 8 week (20 hours / week) Summer Intensive experience

with their identified faculty lab mentor. Awardees begin their summer intensive research during the summer session immediately following award notification. Awardees are eligible for continued funding for the following Fall semester should expectations be met satisfactorily).

4. Student recipient is awarded an initial \$2500 in scholarship funding by the first day of Fall semester or Summer session, respectively. These funds will be deposited into the student's ASU account. Faculty mentor support funds of up to \$250 (from Department of Psychology resources) are awarded by September 1st or June 1st respectively. These funds may be used for any research-related purposes such as participant payment, purchase of equipment, and travel.
5. During the first award period (Track 1: August - December, Track 2: Summer session), Scholarship recipients and mentoring faculty meet to formulate the nature and scope of recipient's involvement in the lab and to create an independent poster/publication project that the student will present in April.
6. By December 15th (Track 1) or August 1st (Track 2), recipients and faculty complete the Shapiro Research Scholarship Progress Form

Receipt of the second \$2500 (Spring semester, Track 1 or Fall semester, Track 2) payment distribution is contingent upon the Committee's determination that sufficient effort and progress have been demonstrated during the initial semester. Should the Scholarship Committee agree to fund the student for a second semester:

1. By the first day of Spring semester or Fall semester respectively, student recipients are awarded \$2500 in scholarship funding.
2. Scholarship recipient(s) present their work at the Celebrating Psychology Honors event in April and/or at the Psi Chi sponsored Arizona Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference (AZPURC).
3. By May 15th, Track 1 or December 15th, Track 2 Scholarship recipients complete the Jenessa Shapiro Undergraduate Research Scholarship Completion Form. Note: This form will be shared with donors.

Jenessa R. Shapiro Research Scholarship Application
(Submit completed application to the Scholarship Committee by email at
ENERGIZE@asu.edu by 11:59 PM on the second Friday in April.

1. Faculty member providing Letter of Endorsement:
2. Student information:
 - a. Name, Student ID#
 - b. Anticipated Graduation Date
 - c. GPA
 - d. Current post-undergraduate plans
 - e. Indication of which Track (Fall / Spring) or (Summer / Fall) the student wishes to be considered for
 - f. ASU Financial status HIGH NEED or UNMET NEED
1. Student statement of need: Please describe the financial need that requires you to work. Be sure to mention any special considerations such as providing for children or other dependents
2. Application Essay: 2-page maximum typed double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font
 - a. Identify your interests/goals related to the ENERGIZE Research Lab with which you have chosen to work.
 - b. Articulate how you plan to successfully achieve your interests/goals. *Provide enough detail to show you have a well thought out sense of direction.*
 - c. Identify your
 1. anticipated/desired role within the research lab
 2. plan to contribute and extend the ongoing research
 3. demonstration of your dedication to the research
 - d. How would receiving the scholarship support you in achieving your interests/goals? How will it allow you to reduce your work hours to spend more time in a psychology research lab?
 - e. How would receiving the scholarship contribute to your long-term goals as a psychology major or post undergraduate studies?
4. Submit an expected participation schedule within the research lab (e.g., number of hours devoted to research per week including meetings with your faculty mentor, participation in research activities, independent research (reading/writing), and participation in research lab meetings.
5. Signature granting the permission to access ASU need information. "I give permission to Psychology Advising to obtain ASU information related to my financial need."
6. A completed Application includes both the Student Scholarship Application materials and the faculty Letter of Endorsement. ***The Letter of Endorsement is a critical component of your scholarship application. It is strongly recommended you work closely with your chosen faculty mentor during the application process.*** Only one letter of endorsement is needed. Graduate students or postdocs may co-write the letter of endorsement, but the faculty is the primary submitter. *Note: the student applicant will not have access to the faculty letter of endorsement.*

Shapiro Research Scholarship Faculty Letter of Endorsement (to be submitted by email to ENERGIZE@asu.edu to the Scholarship Committee by the faculty mentor no later than 11:59 PM on the second Friday in April.

Please address the following points in your endorsement letter:

1. How long have you known this student?
2. In what capacity have you known this student?
3. Compared to other ENERGIZE students, rate this student's potential for success in research endeavors (low, medium, high, exceptional).
4. Compared to all research students, rate this student's potential for success in research endeavors (low, medium, high, exceptional).
5. Describe your knowledge of student's intent to pursue post-undergraduate study in a psychology related field.
6. Please describe any first-hand knowledge that, without the Shapiro Research Scholarship, this student's ability to consistently and meaningfully participate in the research lab experience over time will be hindered.
7. Overall rating of anticipated student success as a Shapiro Scholarship recipient (low, medium, high, exceptional).
8. Describe your expectations and the student's commitment to the research lab.
9. Describe your commitment to support the student (e.g., mentoring).

Shapiro Research Scholarship Progress Form

(Submit by email to the Scholarship Committee ENERGIZE@asu.edu)

To be completed by **December 15 (Track 1) or August 1 (Track 2)** by the Scholarship recipient and faculty mentor.

1. Name, Faculty Mentor, Research Lab, Title of Project
2. Frequency of meeting with faculty mentor
3. Summary of work toward independent project (progress to date toward April presentation)
4. Summary of learning and lab participation
5. Explanation of any barriers to progress (if present) and statement of plans to resolve identified barriers.

Shapiro Research Scholarship Completion Form

(Submit by email to the Scholarship Committee ENERGIZE@asu.edu)

To be completed by **May 15** (Track 1) or December 15 (Track 2) by the Scholarship recipient.

1. Name, Faculty Mentor, Research Lab, Title of Project
2. Project details: Summary of work; summary of findings
3. Statement of how receiving the scholarship benefitted the recipient and supported the student's commitment to psychology as a major and/or profession
4. A statement of recipient's proposed plans for continuing in research/psychology
5. A statement of approximate hours spent compared to estimated hours
6. Statement of acquired skills
7. A short summary of how the scholarship funds were used

Shapiro Research Scholarship Selection Criteria

- Non-student members of the ENERGIZE Committee will comprise the Shapiro Research Scholarship Selection Committee as well as other faculty as determined by the chair of the ENERGIZE committee.
- The committee will review all submitted documents for all applicants.
- Awards will be based on 1) Financial Need 50%, 2) Faculty Endorsement 25%, 3) Student Application 25%. **The Committee recognizes that all applicants for the Jenessa R. Shapiro Research Scholarship must demonstrate financial need. Upon receiving verification from the University that the applicant does qualify as meeting the criteria of High Financial Need and/or Unmet Financial Need, the Committee will consider the student's statement of financial need circumstances in the student application. This statement serves as the basis for the 50% weighted Financial Need evaluation for awarding the Scholarship.**

Shapiro Research Scholarship Advertising

Information about the Shapiro Research Scholarship will be available on the ENERGIZE webpage. In addition, at the beginning of the Spring semester an email describing the Scholarship will be sent to PSY 230 and PSY 290 instructors and a description will be included in the Friday Flash newsletter that Psych Advising sends to all majors. All faculty will receive an email in early February as a reminder of the scholarship opportunity available to labs and students in the ENERGIZE program.