



2025-2026 Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program

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VUSRP provides
Vanderbilt
undergraduate
students with the
opportunity to
engage in **10 weeks**
of **full-time, side-by-**
side research with
any Vanderbilt
faculty member.



Components & Timing

Required

Ten weeks of full-time research (Tuesday, May 26-Friday, July 31, 2026) with a Vanderbilt faculty mentor.

Deviations possible; must be submitted at time of application or in writing later.

Required

Participate in a roundtable discussion during the last few weeks of the summer.

Required

Present at the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Research Symposium in fall or spring of AY 26-27.

Encouraged

Attend VUSRP enrichment programs and workshops throughout the summer.

Eligibility



Enrolled in a Vanderbilt undergraduate degree program at the time of application.



Able to engage in ten weeks of full-time, side-by-side research during the summer with a Vanderbilt faculty mentor.



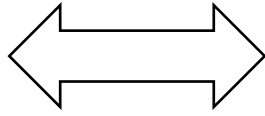
Be a rising junior or senior.

Rising sophomores are not eligible.



Full consideration for those with at least a 3.2 GPA.

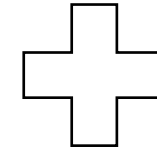
Other considerations



Students must submit a complete application by the deadline;
application has components from both student and supervising faculty mentor.



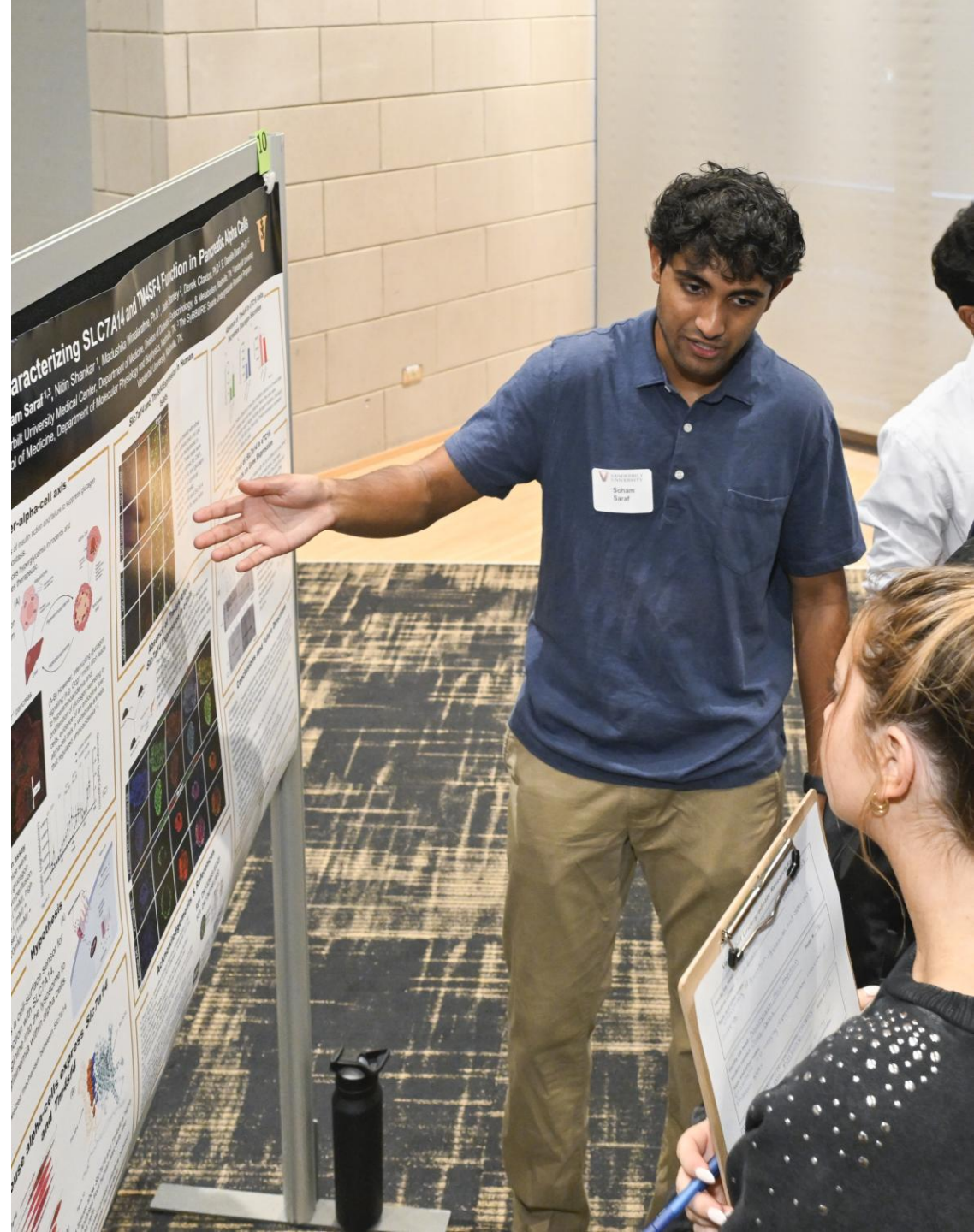
Students who are awarded VUSRP cannot enroll in summer session courses with dates that overlap with the VUSRP dates.



The proposed summer project can be a continuation of prior research or can continue into the fall semester (although neither is required)

Benefits

- Faculty mentor
- Research experience
- Presentation experience
- Cohort of VUSRP student researchers
- Eligibility for reduced summer housing for qualified students
- \$6000 stipend
 - *Limited number of Littlejohn or Goldberg Fellows awards given to applicants with the highest scores*

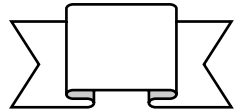


Benefits cont'd

- Optional on-campus housing
 - May 24-August 1
- Two pay structures
 - Students with no financial need:
 - \$4381.50 housing charge
 - Remaining stipend of \$1618.50
 - Students with financial need:
 - \$2760 housing charge
 - Remaining stipend of \$3240
- More details will be provided to students offered an award



Immersion Vanderbilt

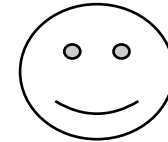


VUSRП can satisfy your Immersion Vanderbilt experiential requirement.

If awarded and completed, VUSRП will be recorded as an immersive experience.



Ask your VUSRП faculty mentor to be your faculty adviser for Immersion Vanderbilt.



Make an advising appointment with Immersion Vanderbilt advisers.

Application Details



Submitted through the InfoReady Review Portal by 11:59 p.m. CST on 01/28/2026.

No late submissions will be accepted.



Must be endorsed by your faculty mentor. A single faculty member may sponsor up to two applications. Your faculty mentor writes part of the application.



Written for a general audience. Review committee members will represent a variety of disciplines.

Student portion of application

- Describe the existing knowledge that underpins the research questions you will address this summer. Where are the gaps in knowledge?
- What is the specific question or hypothesis you will address during the summer? Include the rationale that motivates your choice. If appropriate and feasible for a 10-week program, you may describe more than one research aim.
- Describe the research design/methods that you will use to address your question or hypothesis. Keep in mind that reviewers may not be familiar with the technical aspects of your field and use language that a general audience would understand.
- How does participation in VUSRP, as defined in this application, enhance your short-term and long-term personal goals? Be specific.

Faculty portion of application

- Please assess the applicant's readiness to undertake and benefit from the proposed project. If the student has worked with you in past, provide an assessment of the student's contribution. If not, discuss coursework, experiences, and/or attributes that the student will bring to the proposed project.
- We encourage faculty to discuss training goals with the student. What training goals have you established and what activities will support those goals?
- If any aspect of this project will take place off campus and/or travel is involved, please briefly explain below. If not, indicate N/A.
- How will the student be mentored? Please give specific information about how often the student will meet with you, how the student's progress will be evaluated, and how feedback will be given. Additionally, indicate who will provide daily supervision and what types of mentorship they will provide. If you answered yes to question 3, be explicit about how the student will be supervised while away from campus.

Writing Workshops

Tuesday, January 6 & and Wednesday, January 14

4:30-5:30

Locations TBA

Open to all potential
applicants



Goals are to demystify the application writing process, to provide examples of past successful applications, and to provide an opportunity to engage in peer review



Reasons to Attend:

- Hear from faculty reviewers about best practices
- Review successful application samples
- Learn techniques to improve your own application for VUSRP

Application Review

Each application is reviewed by three faculty members – remember that your reviewers may not be familiar with your area of research. Write for a diverse audience!

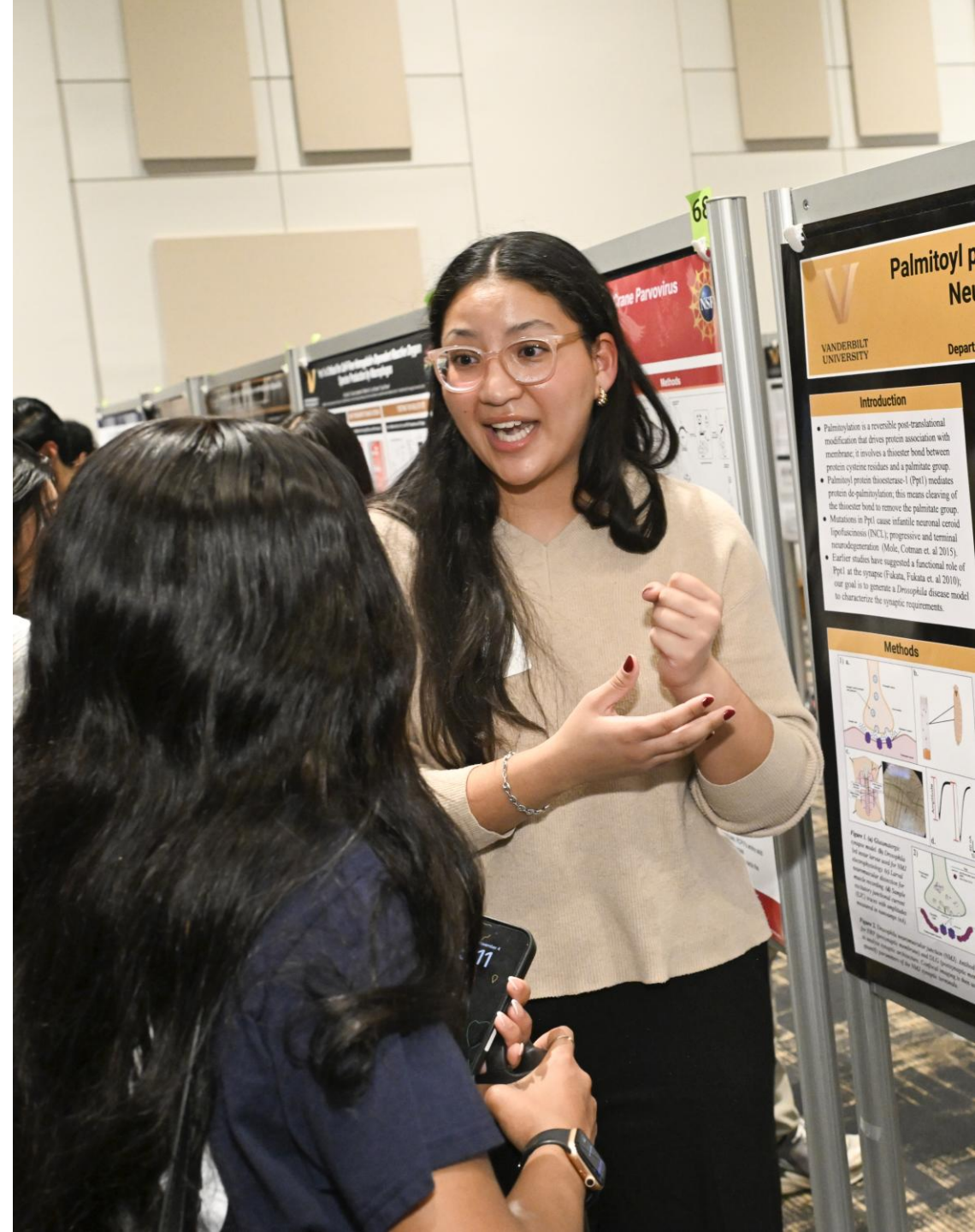
The rubric used by the reviewers can be downloaded from the InfoReady application site.

Both student and the faculty responses are very important in the final score. Talk with your faculty sponsor about the application and make sure you give them time to compose/submit their responses.



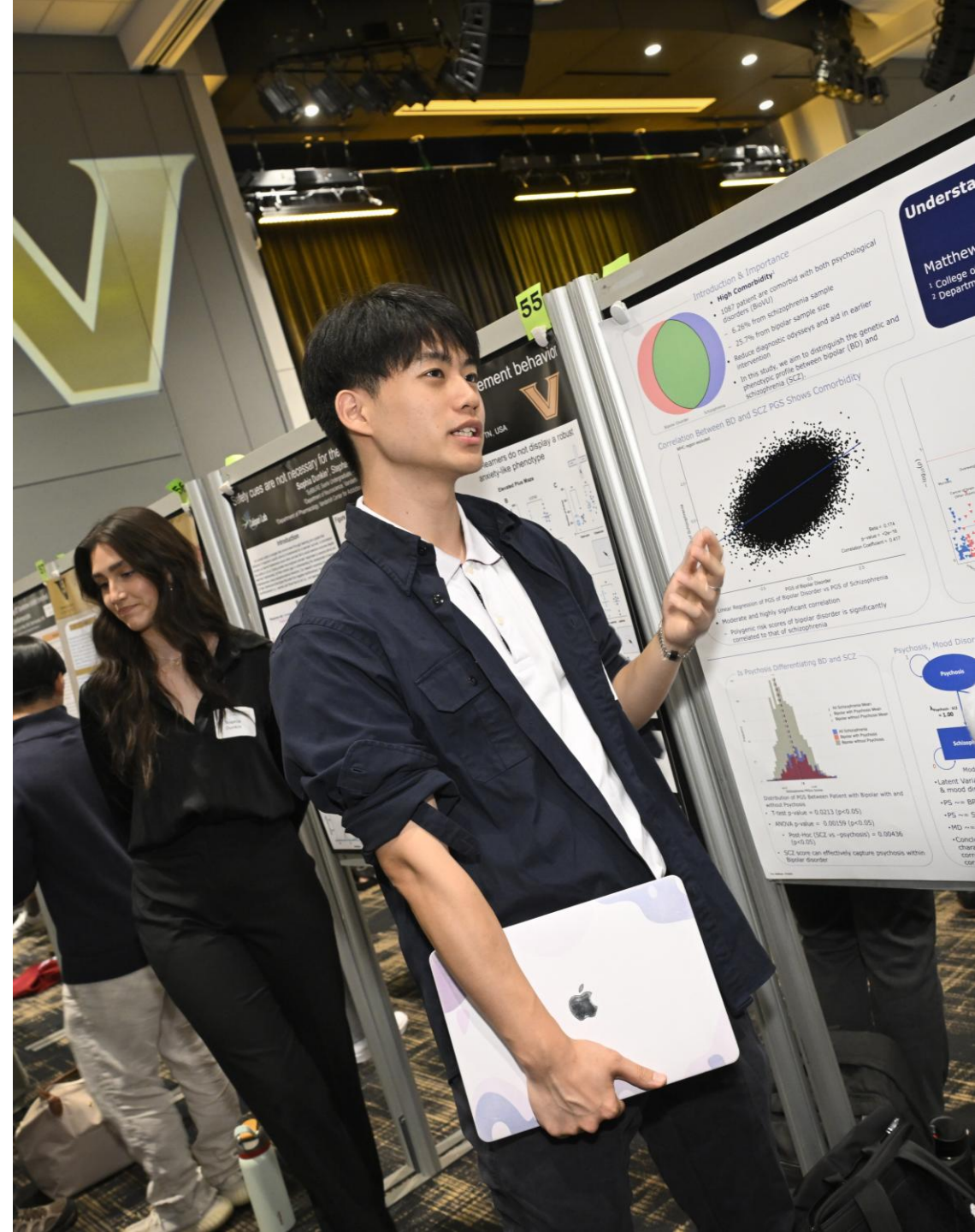
Common FAQs

- Can I use my VUSRP experience to satisfy Immersion Vanderbilt requirements?
 - Yes!
- May a School of Medicine faculty member be a VUSRP faculty adviser?
 - Yes! Any VU full-time faculty can mentor.
- How do I find a faculty mentor?
 - Websites, VURS programs, academic advisor; reach out to faculty teaching your courses
- May I enroll in summer school if I am in VUSRP?
 - Course enrollment is not permitted during the ten-week session.
- May I propose research that I am already working on with my mentor?
 - Yes! Research that is part of prior or ongoing research is allowed.



Common FAQs

- Am I restricted to research within my major/area of study?
 - Not at all; research in any discipline is always encouraged
- Is VUSRP only for natural, basic, and life sciences research?
 - All researchers from any discipline are encouraged to apply
- I need to adjust my research dates; is that allowed?
 - Research falling outside of the ten-week session is permitted with your faculty mentor's approval. Deviations of more than one week must be submitted in advance to Immersion Vanderbilt.



Application Deadline

- Application opens on November 12, 2025 in InfoReady
- Complete applications must be submitted through the InfoReady Portal by 11:59 p.m., January 28, 2026.
 - Students are strongly encouraged to submit their portion by January 16 to give faculty mentors time to submit the remaining responses prior to the deadline on January 28.
 - No late submissions will be accepted.
 - Communicate with your faculty mentor in advance to agree upon a timeline for submitting your application.

<https://vanderbilt.infoready4.com/>



Key Dates & Resources



Applications Due:

Wednesday,
January 28, 2026
at 11:59 pm



Notifications:

Awards announced in March
via Vanderbilt email from
Immersion@vanderbilt.edu



Resources:

vanderbilt.edu/immersion/vusrp
[https://vanderbilt.infoready4.com/
immersion@Vanderbilt.edu](https://vanderbilt.infoready4.com/immersion@Vanderbilt.edu)

Watch Anchorlink and the Sunday
Immersion email for information
about proposal workshops in January

A photograph of a scientific conference. In the foreground, a woman in a grey pinstripe blazer is gesturing with her hands while talking to a man in a white shirt. To the left, another woman in a white top is looking at a poster. The background shows a large hall with many posters on display, some with bar charts and graphs. The ceiling has stage lights. A large, semi-transparent dark rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the word "QUESTIONS" in large yellow letters and a URL below it.

QUESTIONS

vanderbilt.edu/immersion/vusrp