



CUSE: Who We Are and What We Do

How does the University of Notre Dame define “undergraduate scholarly engagement”?

Notre Dame defines “undergraduate scholarly engagement” as the process of pursuing activities related to one’s undergraduate coursework and connected to one’s postgraduate trajectory in order to make an impact on the world.

What is the value of undergraduate scholarly engagement?

Notre Dame believes that undergraduate scholarly engagement is valuable for at least two reasons:

1. It allows undergraduate students to learn how to use their education to create change in the world at an early stage in their careers. “You don’t have to wait until graduation to start making an impact.”
2. It allows undergraduate students to develop skills that are necessary to thrive in a professional world that increasingly requires independence, creativity and innovation, critical thinking, flexibility, and adaptability.

What are the forms that undergraduate scholarly engagement can take?

At Notre Dame, undergraduate scholarly engagement takes the following forms:

- Scholarly development activities (e.g., conference attendance, seminars, workshops, language institutes)
- Research-related activities (e.g., preliminary studies, independent research, research assistantships, conference presentations, journal/website publications)
- Community engagement (e.g., service learning, community-based learning, activism)
- Career development activities (e.g., internships, shadowing)
- National fellowship applications
- Applying for graduate school
- Applying for professional school

How does CUSE support undergraduate scholarly engagement at Notre Dame?

The Flatley Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement (CUSE) supports undergraduate scholarly engagement in the following ways:

- Co-curricular scholarly discernment advising
- Research-related activities and resources
 - Getting started in research workshops
 - Crafting a strong grant proposal workshops
 - Grant proposal advising and feedback
 - Direct student support through grant funding



- Database of undergraduate scholarly engagement at Notre Dame
- Database of faculty research interests at Notre Dame
- IRB resources
- Lists of available grants through Notre Dame
- Lists of external research opportunities
- Lists of conferences and publications that accept undergraduate research
- National fellowship application advising and resources
 - Recruitment practices that identify students and alumni who could be competitive applicants for national fellowships
 - Pre-application process that matches applicants to appropriate fellowships
 - Guidance through specific fellowship application processes
- Applying for graduate school workshops in collaboration with the Meruelo Family Center for Career Development and the Graduate School
- Sorin Scholars interdisciplinary honors program
 - Sophomore scholarly engagement seminar for new Sorin Scholars
 - Priority access to CUSE grant funding

What are some of the other units at the University of Notre Dame that offer workshops and advising related to undergraduate scholarly engagement?

The list below is not necessarily comprehensive.

- Meruelo Family Center for Career Development (e.g., career development activities, applying for professional school)
- Center for Social Concerns (e.g., community engagement)
- Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures (e.g., language institutes)
- Office of Pre-Health Advising (e.g., applying for professional school)

What are some of the other units at the University of Notre Dame that offer funding for undergraduate scholarly engagement?

See <https://cuse.nd.edu/undergraduate-research/funding-research/grants-nd/> for a list of other units at Notre Dame that offer scholarly engagement funding.

What types of scholarly engagement activities does CUSE fund?

Current undergraduates can apply to CUSE to secure funding for the following types of scholarly engagement activities, as long as the specific project is not eligible for funding by any other unit at Notre Dame.

- Independent research, including preliminary research
- Research assistantship



- Conference Presentation
- Scholarly development activities
 - Conference Attendance
 - Seminars
 - Workshops
 - Practicums
 - Other forms of skill acquisition once approved by a CUSE advisor

What types of scholarly engagement activities does CUSE not fund?

CUSE does not fund the following types of scholarly engagement activities:

- Activities that are eligible for funding by any other unit at Notre Dame ([see our list of Notre Dame funding entities](#))
- Clinical shadowing
- Credit-bearing programs
- Exam fees
- Study abroad programs
- Notre Dame-related programs (contact the programs to see if any form of financial assistance is available to cover their fees and other costs)
- Community engagement ([see the Center for Social Concerns](#))
- Internships that are not research-based ([see the Meruelo Family Center for Career Development](#))
- Language acquisition programs ([see the Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures](#))

What is CUSE's approach to undergraduate advising?

CUSE aims to do whatever we can to help students achieve their scholarly engagement goals. We recognize that different students have different levels of familiarity with the pursuit of scholarly engagement, and we aim to meet students where they are. Although we cannot guarantee that every application a student works on with us will result in a grant or fellowship—and we will be honest with students about the relative competitiveness of various opportunities—we will do our best to ensure that the application process is as valuable as possible for our students, regardless of whether or not they receive the grant or fellowship. We will be students' allies throughout the process of discerning their scholarly engagement goals and then applying for the support to pursue them. We will not act as gatekeepers; rather, we will act as guides, accompanying students on their journeys of scholarly engagement.