

HUNTER R. RAWLINGS III CORNELL PRESIDENTIAL RESEARCH SCHOLARS

A Prospectus

*The Hunter R. Rawlings III
Cornell Presidential
Research Scholars
is one of three student
recognition and reward
programs that make up
The Cornell Commitment.
Together, The Cornell
Commitment empowers
students to impact the world.*



RCPRS students are encouraged to pursue their intellectual interests through research in any area of study including the Humanities, Physical and Biological Sciences, Social Sciences, Arts and Engineering.

Our Program

The Hunter R. Rawlings III Cornell Presidential Research Scholars (RCPRS) program supports a select group of highly motivated undergraduate students, from all colleges and many disciplines, by promoting and providing resources for sustained engagement in research and scholarly study in close relationship with faculty and other mentors. RCPRS offers membership to 40 entering freshmen who demonstrate superior academic potential and intellectual curiosity in high school. Scholars collaborate with faculty mentors of their choosing in designing and carrying out an individualized program of research.

The Cornell Presidential Research Scholars program was created in 1996. It was later re-named in honor of President Hunter R. Rawlings III, under whose leadership the RCPRS program was founded. Rawlings was committed to increasing significant interactions between undergraduate students and faculty members.

“We make our world significant by the courage of our questions and by the depth of our answers.”

~Carl Sagan

Program Benefits

Research Support Account (RSA)

Scholars admitted as freshmen have access to up to \$8,000 to support research and related activities while they are full-time undergraduates at Cornell. Rising juniors admitted to RCPRS have access to \$5,000. The RSA can be used to provide a living expense grant for at least one summer of research, attend at least one conference, and purchase necessary supplies.

Scholarship Awards

Rawlings Scholars with demonstrated financial need will receive a \$4,000/year scholarship which increases total grant aid and reduces self-help aid such as loans, summer savings, or work.

RCPRS Colloquium

First year scholars participate in the RCPRS Colloquium, which includes a program orientation as well as meetings with fellow students, faculty members, and college-specific coordinators. This semester-long series in the fall creates a sense of cohesion and belonging, introduces the students to many Cornell resources, and helps them find a faculty mentor.

Faculty Connections

Faculty mentors are crucial to the success of the RCPRS program. Scholars consistently engage in research starting in their second semester and work closely with faculty and other mentors, supporting on-going faculty research or an independent, faculty-endorsed project.



Peer Advisory Network

RCPRS's Peer Advisory Network pairs the program's newest students with upperclass scholars who have navigated Cornell's challenges and resources and who can provide input through the early stages of finding research opportunities.

Summer Research Experiences

Students can develop summer internships to explore their research interests, funded by their Research Support Account. Each scholar is expected to participate in at least one full-time, program-approved summer research experience.

The Cornell Commitment Showcase

This fall event brings together freshmen from the research, service, and leadership programs that make up The Cornell Commitment to learn from upperclass students who have engaged in program-supported summer experiences at Cornell and around the world.

Senior Expo

All RCPRS seniors present their research during this capstone event held annually in April.

Graduation Reception

RCPRS celebrates and honors its seniors at a reception with their families and faculty mentors held on the Friday of Graduation weekend in May.

Student Advisory Board (SAB)

RCPRS students can apply to be members of the SAB, which advises staff on areas of interest for students, organizes social activities, coordinates the peer advisory network, and publishes a newsletter. Board members also serve as ambassadors of the program.

Connect with a Community of Researchers

Relationships that Research Scholars develop with one another and with alumni add richness to the RCPRS experience. Social media, networking, visits from alumni, and special events promote connections between scholars and alumni.

Summer Expected Savings Replacement (ESR)

Students who engage in full-time, program-supported research over the summer may apply for a one-time Expected Savings Replacement. A limited number of ESRs are available.

Expectations

Scholars are expected to:

- Participate in research each semester starting in spring of freshman year.
- Maintain a 3.0+ cumulative GPA.
- Engage in research full-time for at least one summer (more if they choose to and have funds available). This can be at Cornell or elsewhere, with endorsement from the student's Cornell faculty mentor.
- Present their research in the spring at the RCPRS Senior Expo.
- Submit verification of research (for wages or credit) each semester.
- Submit an annual review at the end of the academic year.

We also ask faculty members to evaluate scholars annually.

Learning Outcomes

When scholars graduate from RCPRS, they will be able to:

1. **Think critically** through their involvement in the research process.
2. **Communicate effectively** their objectives, methods, purpose, and outcomes to a diverse audience.
3. **Engage in the process of inquiry and discovery**, working independently as well as collaboratively to generate new knowledge.

They will have the skills and opportunities to

- a. Write a research abstract
- b. Present posters
- c. Prepare oral presentations
- d. Present their research experiences to fellow scholars
- e. Prepare research and scholarly manuscripts, ideally for publication

Regardless of their field of study, RCPRS students are leaders in the perennial quest for knowledge and discovery central to the University's mission. Through the courage of their questions and the depth of their answers, they find value in their education and, ultimately, meaning in their lives.

To learn more about becoming a Rawlings Scholar, visit:

<https://commitment.cornell.edu/rawlings-research-scholars>

