

Call for Proposals
Interdisciplinary Research Generators and Honors Research Fellows
(2026-2028)

Program Description

The John Martinson Honors College (JMHC) is pleased to announce a call for proposals for up to five (5) new Interdisciplinary Research Generators (IRGs). These generators serve as thematically focused research hubs designed to accelerate faculty-student research collaborations and prepare the next generation of innovators and global leaders.

Each IRG is led by Purdue faculty who mentor and integrate JMHC students in transformative, cutting-edge research experiences. These hubs enable students to complete their Scholarly Project requirement through research experiences mentored by the IRG director(s) and IRG affiliate faculty. All awarded faculty (directors and affiliates) will be designated **Honors Research Fellows**.

Information Session

To learn more about this opportunity, all interested applicants and prospective faculty team members are invited to attend the virtual information session scheduled on **Thursday, July 16, 2026, from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**. Please RSVP for the info session by emailing Sarah Vaughn, svaughn@purdue.edu and she will follow up with a calendar invitation.

Eligibility

Faculty (tenure-track, clinical/professional, and research) from all disciplines at Purdue University in West Lafayette and Indianapolis are invited to apply to lead a generator for a two-year period (AY 2026-2028), extendable for another 2-year cycle depending on availability of funds and other metrics of success.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals must be centered on a broad interdisciplinary theme that welcomes undergraduates from across all Purdue majors. Your submission should identify the following:

- IRG Theme: A broad, interdisciplinary focus which will resonate with JMHC students across disciplines, and that ideally reflects contemporary global concerns and challenges.
- Leadership: Name, designation, department, college of IRG Director(s).

- Team: A inter/multi-disciplinary group of 3-7 faculty and/or graduate student affiliates who will mentor students involved in the IRG projects. (150-word bio for each team member)
- Research Projects: Description(s) of the Research project(s) capable of engaging 10-15 JMHC students annually toward the completion of their scholarly project (50-100 word/project).
- Development Plan: A clear, brief research mentorship and professional development plan for undergraduate researchers (200 words).
- Curriculum: Names and brief descriptions (100 words) of at least 2 Honors research courses (HONR) that director/affiliates can offer, and any co-curricular activities connected to the IRG.
- Deadline: Submit the Qualtrics application form by August 14, 2026. For general inquiries, please email Sarah Vaughn, svaughn@purdue.edu.

Funding and Support

Awarded IRGs will receive \$15,000 per year for two years (2026-2028), with the possibility of a two-year extension.

- Eligible Expenses: Funds may be used for summer salary, undergraduate student hourly pay, graduate research assistant support through hourly wages, data collection, archival research, community engagement, travel, and research dissemination.
- Director Benefit: Each Director will receive an additional \$1,500 in professional development funds.
- Institutional Support: Awarded IRGs will receive assistance from the JMHC's Research team regarding research infrastructure, budget guidance, student recruitment, and the scholarly project completion process.

Additional Expectations

- Contribution to the Honors Curriculum: Each IRG must offer at least 1 HONR course (over the two-year period) that fulfills the JMHC's Scholarly Project requirement.
- Student Leadership*: The IRG Director will hire, mentor, and train a Student Lab Manager (SLM) recruited from the JMHC. The SLM will receive additional peer-mentorship from the Student Director of Undergraduate Research Labs.

We welcome proposals from all fields, including the STEAM, humanities, and social sciences. By fostering an ecosystem of mentorship and interdisciplinary inquiry, these

new generators will continue to advance high-impact, sustainable undergraduate research practices at Purdue.

* The Student Lab Manager fosters student engagement and contributes to the vision of the lab. The role of the Student Lab Manager is to assist the IRG Director(s) in managing communication, recruitment, and community building efforts for the lab. The Student Lab Manager assists in planning and running lab events, creating and distributing promotional materials, and developing and maintaining lab documentation and digital tools. Crucially, the Student Lab Manager is also key to the lab's community-building efforts, including fostering student engagement in the lab, voicing student perspectives during lab planning meetings, representing the lab at outreach events, and serving as a liaison between faculty, staff, and students. The Student Lab Manager is deeply invested in the mission of the lab and has strong organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills.