Falcon Grants

About the Program
This program is designed to support and encourage students to participate in undergraduate research, scholarly and creative activities. Specifically, it has been established to provide funding to support the conduct of URSCA in association with a faculty or staff mentor and/or to attend professional meetings with or without a presentation of the results from their projects. This program is designed to be inclusive of all fields of study and their respective professional activities, therefore the program is open to students from all disciplines and fields. This means that the program is open to traditional scientific research as well authors, artists and performers engaged in scholarly or creative activities outside the normal classroom environment.

The program was designed and is administered by SURSCA (the Society for Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities), a student organization dedicated to enhancing the culture of URSCA on our campus. The program is designed with student peer-review of the competitive applications as a cornerstone. In addition, this peer-review process is overseen by the SURSCA administrative committee and then again by the Differential Tuition Committee to ensure that this important program is fair and constructive.

About Falcon Grants
Falcon Grants are supported by Student Differential Tuition Funds and are administered by the students of SURSCA-The Society for Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities. The program has three grant categories, Project grants, Individual Travel Grants and Group Travel Grants. Project grants are designed to support student participation in URSCA projects with a faculty or staff mentor. The grant is intended to cover material costs associated with the project and so to facilitate the conduct of these projects. No travel for presentation may be included in these grants and they may not be used to pay stipends, salaries or other payments for the student, mentor or other participants. All costs must be fully detailed and justified in the application. The faculty mentor will be required to verify the use of these funds. Travel Grants are designed to provide funds for student travel to present the “results” of URSCA projects and activities (regardless of whether that work was funded through a Project Grant or not). In addition, students attending such meetings who are not presenting may also apply for travel support of “professional development”. Therefore, this portion of the program includes two categories of application; presentation and participation grants. The two categories are weighted differently in terms of funding and priority to reflect the relative importance and impact on the student’s educational and professional development. In addition to these considerations, travel to national/international meetings will also be prioritized relative to regional/state meetings. Travel Grants also includes a special subset of grants to fund “travel to present” at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). This is a premier meeting for URSCA attended by students, faculty and administrators from around the nation. Each year between 1500-2500 individuals from all fields meet at a unique location and share their URSCA results. Since 2002, UWRF has sent hundreds of students to these meetings and has become a major participant in this important event. Therefore, a portion of Falcon Grant funding is earmarked to support this travel and will be given priority consideration. Each participant attending NCUR must fill-out a Falcon Grant – Travel application.

Required for Funding
Students who receive a Falcon Grant are required to submit a written conclusion of your experience that the funding sponsored. The submission should include, but not limited to, thoughts after the conference and/or project, what was gained or learned from the experience, and general information on how the funding assisted you. Failure to complete this requirement will result in students becoming ineligible for Falcon Grants during the following semester. The submissions will be used on the SURSCA webpage and as a promotional and tracking tool to promote awareness of URSCA at UWRF.

Students who receive funding to attend meetings are recommended to attend a Career Services sponsored workshop on professionalism. Any student reported conducting themselves inappropriately while representing UWRF through this program will become ineligible for future Falcon Grants funding.
Application Information
Specific form instructions are as follows:

- Applications should be written and submitted by the students
- Sections from the applications:
  - **Grant Category or Type:**
    - Please check one box which applies to your request for funding. Only one may be selected and only one application may be submitted in a given grant cycle.
  - **Abstract or Project Description:**
    - Please enter the project abstract or description here. This should be a concise and clear presentation of the main ideas of your actual presentation at the meeting. Please avoid "jargon" and explain as clearly as possible for the non-professional reader to understand. This section is considered carefully by the grants committee and must convey your ideas to them unambiguously for your grant to be successful. If your URSCA or meeting does not require an abstract then please write a clear description of the nature of your work and the presentation. Please do not include the title or author information here. (Maximum length is 1500 characters)
  - **Description of the importance of this project to your educational and career goals:**
    - Please provide a clear and complete summary description of the expected impact and importance of this project/presentation to your future goals and aspirations. This will be used by the committee to judge the appropriateness of the funding request and so is very important. Maximum size is 1500 characters.
  - **Budget Totals:**
    - Please provide the exact total you are requesting from the Falcon Grant program.
      Note the following maximum upper limits for each category of grant:
      - Travel to Present: $1000.00
      - Travel to Attend: $300.00
      - RSCA Project Grants: $750.00
      **A maximum of two falcon grants can be awarded to a given student within each academic year** (only one per conference for travel and only one per project grant per project). Students traveling to present work previously funded by this program as an RSCA project grant will be given priority consideration. Students traveling to NCUR (the National Conference on Undergraduate Research) will receive the highest priority funding. Please note that all funding requests must be for the actual costs for travel and are subject to the normal UWRF travel policies.
  - **Itemized Budget:**
    - Please provide a clear and complete detailed budget for your grant request. In the case of travel grants, this should include specific quotes for conference/meeting registration, hotel costs, airfare and ground transportation. Travel grants do not pay for meals. The overall budget should include a brief but detailed narrative justifying the costs and explaining any significant details. Please limit yourself to a maximum of two pages for this information.