



Norma Slepecky Undergraduate Research Prize Submission Guidelines 2023

The **Norma Slepecky Undergraduate Research Prize** is endowed in memory of Professor Norma Slepecky, a distinguished auditory neuroanatomist, by her family, friends, and colleagues. Undergraduate students are eligible to compete for the Slepecky Prize if their research projects are based in the full range of science and engineering. This includes all departments listed on the [WiSE website](#). If you have questions about eligibility, please contact Sharon Alestalo, WiSE Program Director (swalesta@syr.edu). Women undergraduate students are strongly encouraged to apply.

Enrollment Requirements: The Syracuse University research project must be completed under the direction of faculty at the University or other recognized university or research laboratory while enrolled at Syracuse University. If an enrolled student submits documents from a research opportunity not affiliated with Syracuse University and under the direction of a non-Syracuse University researcher, the student is required to have letters of support from both the research lead and a Syracuse University faculty member. Students working in Upstate Medical University labs and SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry labs of faculty who are affiliated with Syracuse University (i.e., courtesy appointment) will NOT require the extra letter from a SU faculty member. Students enrolled at other institutions but have worked on a research problem at Syracuse University with a Syracuse University advisor are eligible only if they are currently (academic year of the prize announcement) considered an SU student and carrying at least one credit. Students who have graduated in the academic year (ex: December) or in a prior year are not eligible.

Application Materials:

- A. **Student's submittal packet** should be a single pdf document for easier distribution to the review committee. The document should be compiled in the following order:
 - a. **Required coversheet** (downloaded from the [WiSE website](#))
 - b. **Resume or CV**
 - c. **Personal statement** – this should include a statement on the student's contribution to the research, an explanation of how the research opportunity has contributed to their academic experience and how it is anticipated to contribute to their future.
 - d. **Research Evidence:** Students wishing to compete for the Slepecky Prize are required to submit documentary evidence of their research as undergraduates. The undergraduate research must be conducted prior to the prize submission date. This can take the form of:
 - i. **Published or accepted abstract for a scientific or professional society meeting in combination with the text of the oral or poster presentation.** Poster presentations should be 11x17" pdfs of the poster plus associated texts. Charts that are not visible in a small format should be attached in the appendix of the text.
 - ii. **Draft Honors or senior thesis:** WiSE recognizes that in some years early submission dates may precede the completion of a Senior or Honors thesis. In this case, a draft of the research report with a statement of expectation of completion/publication included in the

letter of nomination by the faculty research advisor will be an acceptable substitute.

iii. **Text of a paper submitted or being prepared for submission as a major contributing author to a peer-reviewed archival journal:**

The definition of major contributing author may be different from discipline to discipline. Some are in alphabetical order, some have the faculty advisor's name first, etc. The intent of this requirement is that the student contributed substantially and was in a leadership role in terms of the research and writing of the documents submitted. Faculty research advisor should confirm senior authorship in the letter of nomination.

NOTE: A previously nominated student who did not win can resubmit materials from the prior competition year for review.

- B. **A letter of nomination from SU faculty research advisor** (in pdf format) should be submitted directly to Sharon Alestalo (swalesta@syr.edu). The letter should include confirmation that the student is academically in good standing, that the student contributed substantially to the research project, any awards earned, and a rationale and endorsement for consideration. If the student conducted their research under the direction of another researcher not affiliated in any way with Syracuse University, that researcher can submit a nomination. However, a University faculty member would also need to provide a supplemental letter endorsing the nomination and confirming the validity of the experience (a well-established and credentialed lab, REU or investigator) and the student's academic standing and research work at Syracuse University. Students conducting research at Upstate Medical University or SUNY ESF in the lab of a faculty member with a courtesy appointment at Syracuse University do not require a second letter.

Submission Deadline: The compiled PDF outlined in A should be sent **by 5 PM on March 10, 2023** to Sharon Alestalo (swalesta@syr.edu). Questions can also be directed to Ms. Alestalo at 315.443.3419.