



# Crus Scholar Program Research Project Invitation

**Cohort 2 Application Window: February 1~ February 28**  
**12-Week Research Project Term: March 15 ~ June 15**

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## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- **U of U Undergraduates**  
Pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Metallurgical Engineering or Materials Science
- **Salt Lake Community College Students**  
Pursuing an Associate of Pre-engineering Degree

## WHY APPLY?

*Crus Scholars will have the rare opportunity to work on their own research project with guidance from a mentor—a U of U professor who shares an interest in the research topic—in addition to being paid for time spent conducting the project. Up to two Crus Scholars will be chosen each semester. Current rate of compensation: \$17.00 per hour.*

## HOW MUCH TIME IS REQUIRED?

Crus Scholars should expect to spend at least 20 hours per week over a 12-week period (\$3960) but no more than 20 hours a week (up to \$4080) on their project.

*Note: Crus Scholar research projects typically are conducted at the Roger & Dawn Crus Center for Metallurgy Student Research at the William Browning Building, 135 South 1460 East. Some work may be done off-campus if appropriate resources are available, and the Crus Scholar's mentor approves.*

## HOW TO APPLY?

Identify a mentor whose interest in a research topic aligns with yours, then submit (1) an original proposal (not written by someone else) for the research project, and (2) a summary of relevant personal information, including work experience (if any) and your education and career goals. Please limit the proposal to no more than two pages—three if graphics are included—and limit the personal summary to no more than one page.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

### 1. Grammar (Score: 1-5)

Proposals should demonstrate excellent grammar, with clear, concise, and well-structured sentences. Proposals with minimal errors will score higher in this category.

### 2. Research (Score: 1-5)

Your proposal should show an understanding of the research topic, effectively integrating relevant literature and identifying gaps in the current research. A strong foundation in existing research is essential for a high score.

### 3. Clarity of Research Objective (Score: 1-5)

The research objective should be clearly stated and well-articulated. The objective should provide a specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) roadmap for your project.

### 4. Original Work (Score: 1-5)

Proposals that introduce novel approaches or methodologies and represent a significant contribution to the field will score higher. The originality of your work is key to standing out.

### 5. Overall Competence (Score: Average of the Above Scores)

The overall competence of your proposal will be reflected in the average of the scores across the above criteria. This score will determine the strength and viability of your research project within the Crus Scholar Program.

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For a list of current topics of interest to mentors, assistance in enlisting a mentor, homing in on a specific research project to propose (if you do not already have one), and guidelines for structuring the proposal, contact:

**Prof. Swomitra “Bobby” Swomitra**  
Crus Center Director  
[swomitra@chemeng.utah.edu](mailto:swomitra@chemeng.utah.edu)

**Professor Aimee Birdsall**  
SLCC Engineering Dept.  
[Aimee.Birdsall@SLCC.edu](mailto:Aimee.Birdsall@SLCC.edu)

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## **CRUS SCHOLAR RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL**

Title:

Name:

Advisor:

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### **1. Project Summary Statement**

### **2. Relevant Background and Literature Review**

### **3. Specific Research Activities to be Performed**

**4. Relationship of the Work to the Expertise of the Faculty Mentor**

**5. Anticipated Project Deliverables**

**6. Relationship of the Proposed Work to the Applicant's Future Goals**

**7. References**