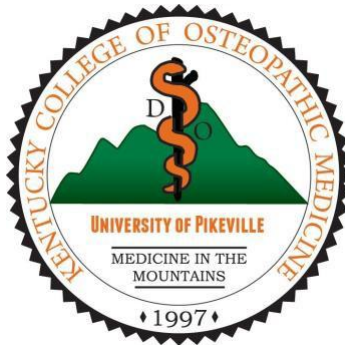


KYCOM SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



The KYCOM Summer Research Fellowship (SRF) is a competitive, mentored research opportunity designed for osteopathic medical students who have completed their first year of study. This summer program fosters early engagement in scholarly activity, with a focus on research that aligns with KYCOM's commitment to preclinical, rural health, osteopathic, and community-based research.

Program Goals

- Develop foundational research skills in biomedical and clinical sciences
- Promote mentorship with KYCOM faculty and affiliated researchers
- Encourage scholarly output and professional development
- Support the exploration of academic medicine and rural health research

Eligibility

- KYCOM students who have completed OMS-I
- In good academic standing (cumulative grade is 75% or above)
- Demonstrated interest in research, rural health, or osteopathic medicine

Program Dates

- May 20- July 15, 2026
- Full-time commitment (minimum 40 hours/week)

Research Focus Areas

Projects may include:

- Preclinical laboratory work
- Rural health disparities and access to care
- Incorporation of cultural competence
- Osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) research
- Preventive medicine and public health
- Clinical outcomes in underserved populations
- Medical education and curriculum innovation

Mentorship Pathways

Students may enter the program through one of two routes:

1. **Student-Driven Route:** Students can approach faculty members with research ideas and ensure that the faculty has the funding to support the project if required. If the faculty member can assist with the project, they will complete the Fellowship PI form. Students need to ensure that the faculty have the funding necessary to complete the project. Faculty members can then promote the student-led research ideas at the spring Faculty Research Presentation if more students are needed for the project.
2. **Faculty-Driven Route:** Faculty will share their general research interests, areas of expertise, and proposed summer projects at the spring Faculty Research Presentation. Students rank the faculty based on their interest in the projects presented. Faculty will decide which students they want to work with, typically those who ranked them first.

Both routes are designed to foster meaningful mentorship and ensure students are engaged in research that resonates with their academic and professional goals.

Funding mechanisms:

- A. Funding includes a \$3,000 stipend. Once the award notice is issued, you will be asked to complete the necessary forms with the Human

Resources office.

- B. Stipends will be distributed in three payments upon fulfillment of the specified requirements of each stage (see below). Additionally, all award recipients must maintain good academic standing throughout the entire award period.

Please note that to receive funds, you must fill out all necessary paperwork with the University of Pikeville's Human Resource Department. One such form is the I-9 form, which requires a physical copy of either your social security card or a valid passport.

Application Requirements

- Online application form (available via KYCOM student portal) to be filled by PI
- Personal statement (500 words): research interests and career goals
- IRB application or Waiver, if required
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Optional: Proposed research idea/Preferred mentor

Selection Criteria

- Academic performance and professionalism
- Alignment with KYCOM's mission and research priorities
- Quality of personal statement
- Strength of recommendation

Program Deliverables

- Final written reports or manuscript draft
- Oral presentation at KYCOM Summer Research Symposium
- Optional submission to national conference or peer-reviewed journal

Deadline for ranking and personal statement submission: February 15, 2026

Progress Report Requirements

All SRF participants are required to submit periodic progress reports:

- Work in Progress Report #1 Deadline July 1st

- Work in Progress Report #2 Deadline August 1st

The students must also attend and present their research to the faculty, staff, and student body at the designated Special Topic Course session in September.

Presentation at KYCOM Research Day and Other Conferences

KYCOM Summer Fellowship recipients are required to provide a poster presentation of their research at the UPIKE Research Symposium. All Summer Research Fellowship recipients will be encouraged to submit an abstract to the scientific meeting of their choice. Recipients are encouraged to apply for external awards to help offset the cost of conference attendance.

Contact Information

For questions or more information regarding the application process, please contact:

Chair Research Committee
Saima Ejaz
Assistant Professor of Physiology
saimaejaz@upike.edu

Vice Chair Research Committee
Matthew Lazenka
Assistant Professor of Neuroanatomy
matthewlazenka@upike.edu