

2026 Scholarship Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research on Food Distribution and Marketing



The Food Distribution Research Society (FDRS) is pleased to accept applications for the **2026 Scholarship Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research on Food Distribution and Marketing**. Broadly defined, this area encompasses all economic functions that occur between the farm gate and final consumer.

Eligibility

- The competition is open to all current undergraduate students with scholarly interest and career" aspirations in the food distribution system. Graduating seniors are eligible to be nominated.
- Please note: 1) applicants are limited to applying for each category only once and subsequent" submissions will not be considered, 2) only one submission will be accepted per university per category" each year, and 3) **applications must be submitted by Friday, Cr tln'46. 2028 by the student's department head/chair via email to** Nathan Kemper (nkemper@uark.edu) (please include *2026 FDRS Scholarship Award* in the subject line).

Award

- A travel stipend of \$1,000 to attend the 2026 Annual Conference for the best Undergraduate Student Research Paper
- Complimentary one-year FDRS student membership
- Complimentary conference registration fees and recognition at the 2026 FDRS Annual Conference.

Application steps

Students should save the following, in order, as one PDF file. When labeling the PDF file, please include your first and last name, outstanding undergraduate category, and university name. The final application must be submitted by the student's department head/chair via email to Nathan Kemper (nkemper@uark.edu) (be sure to include 2026 FDRS Scholarship Award in the subject line).

- Statement of Intent form (see attachment or <https://www.fdrsinc.org/fdrs-awards/>)
- Cover letter that includes a brief synopsis of academic training, any food industry experience, and/or research experience and career interests and goals.
- Letter of recommendation from the research paper advisor.
- The complete research paper. Write the research paper following the formatting guidelines provided on page 2 and 3.

For more information

Please visit the FDRS website at <https://www.fdrsinc.org/fdrs-awards/>
or contact FDRS's Vice President of Education:
Dr. Nathan Kemper at nkemper@uark.edu

Undergraduate Paper Formatting Guidelines

Text preparation. All paper components, including references, tables, and any footnotes, should be double-spaced and formatted for 8-1/2- by 11-inch paper. Papers should use 1-inch margins and 12-point Times Roman or a similar-style font. Authors should include short headings for each section and subsection, and check that at least one sentence of text occurs between any two headings. All headings and subheadings should be placed flush left, and sections or subsections should be unnumbered. Please write section headings in bold and subsection headings in italics, and do not indent the first paragraph after any heading. Finally, please do not use a heading before the first paragraph of the paper (i.e., no heading for “introduction”), and do not indent the first paragraph. When referring to your paper within the text, use the word “article.”

If a paper reports the results of an economic experiment or survey conducted by the authors, a copy of the experimental instructions or survey instrument should be included as an appendix (and does not count toward the page limit).

Page limit. Papers (including the abstract) should not exceed 20 double-spaced pages. Pages containing figures, tables, and references do not count toward this limit. In addition, any appendices included do not count toward the page limit. Please note paper length is not necessarily an indication of quality.

Abstract. The first page of the manuscript (not the title page) should list the title of the paper immediately followed by an abstract not to exceed 250 words. The heading “Abstract” should appear in bold, flush left, before the body of the abstract.

Acknowledgements. Authors may optionally include any acknowledgements in the title page after the paper title and identifying information.

Mathematical notation and equations. Only use mathematical notation and equations when necessary. Simple equations (no ratios or multiple sub/superscripts, etc.) may be written in the body of the paper. More complex equations should be numbered consecutively, placed in parentheses and left-justified on the same line as the equal or inequality sign. Such equations should be inserted using the Microsoft Equation Editor.

Footnotes. If footnotes are included in the paper, please use the insert footnote feature in Microsoft Word. Footnotes should be numbered consecutively throughout the paper and not page-by-page. Footnotes should be only explanatory and not for citations.

Tables and figures. Each table and figure should be placed on a separate page at the end of the paper. All tables and

figures should have a title. Titles for tables should be placed at the top of the table and titles for figures placed at the bottom of the figure. Titles should be fully descriptive, flush left, and bold with no periods at the end. For tables, capitalize the first letter in each major word of the title. For figures, capitalize only the first letter of the first word together with proper nouns and adjectives of the title.

Examples:

Table 1. Summary Statistics for Pennsylvania Wheat Crops, 1998-2000

Figure 1. Annual net sales of Mississippi catfish farmers, 2002-2003

In-text citation style of table or figure. Unless they appear at the beginning of a sentence, use lowercase for the words “table” and “figure” in the text.

Footnotes to tables. Place notes for specific items in tables below the bottom line of the table in paragraph form (do not indented), using lower-case English letters. The heading “Note:” may be used to define the use of asterisks (e.g., * or **) to denote statistical significance levels. For example, "Asterisk (*) and double asterisk (**) denote variables significant at 5% and 10%, respectively."

Footnotes to figures. Figures typically do not carry footnotes. If necessary, the heading of “Note:” and any explanatory information may be placed below the figure title.

References and citations.

Examples of how to list specific types of references and citations can be found in the AJAE Reference Guide. References should be placed in a list immediately at the end of the paper, double-spaced (without extra blank lines between references). References should be formatted with hanging indentation (first line flush left, second and subsequent lines indented), and only cited works should be included in the reference list. Citations should appear in the body of the paper using the author’s name and year and include page numbers when necessary. These citations should omit any comma or other punctuation between the author name and the year of publication, and can be inserted parenthetically; e.g., (Doe 1998, p. 5). If the author’s name is used as part of the sentence, include year of publication parenthetically, with page numbers if necessary; e.g., “Doe, Smith and Jones (2002) show that.” Use et al. only with four or more authors. For citations listing more than one source, separate each source with a semi-colon: (Doe 1998; Smith and Jones 2000; Smith, Jones, and Erp 2003; Thomas et al. 2004). Do not use et al. in the reference section.

Supplementary data/appendices. Authors may include appendices if the nature of the material is relevant but does not belong in the body of the paper. Any appendix should be inserted at the end of the paper after all other materials. As noted above, appendices do not count toward the page limit.