

Undergraduate Research Working Group Call for Applications

We invite 8-12 undergraduate students to participate in this exciting working group at the 2026 ASTR Conference in Minneapolis, MN, November 12-15. This working group is focused on mentoring undergraduate scholarship and developing the research pipeline for young scholars. It will provide a platform for students to receive constructive feedback on their work, highlight best research practices, and foster academic exchange.

Call for Papers:

To apply, submit a 200-300 word summary proposal by Monday September 14. Submissions can be connected to the conference's theme, "*Taking Stock*", or explore a subject of personal interest. Accepted participants will then write a 5-7 page paper on the proposal topic.

Possible Areas of Inquiry Include:

- Dramatic texts, contemporary or historical productions, performance processes
- Traditions of cultural practice (traditional theatre practices of the global majority, religious performance, indigenous performance)
- Socially-engaged, activist, or applied theatre
- Time-based arts (performance art, installations, multimedia work)
- Performance studies topic (sports, political events, clowning, circus, drag, burlesque), or a combination of the above
- Digital, virtual, or AI-generated performance or practice

Timeline:

- 200-300 word Proposals due: **September 14, 2026**
- Final 5-7 page papers due: **October 19, 2026**
- Papers circulated to participants: **October 26, 2026**
- Conference dates: **November 12 – 15, 2026**
- Undergraduate Research group session: **Friday, November 13, 2026 @ 8:30amCT**

Participants will come to the conference having read all papers, prepared to offer questions and feedback during the working session.

What to Expect: At the conference, participants will be introduced to conference culture by mentors who will help navigate the experience. During the session, participants will engage in a mediated discussion about their work, receiving valuable feedback and support from peers and mentors. This working group aims to nurture young scholars by highlighting best research practices and fostering academic exchange. Participants will also have the opportunity to:

- Network with graduate students and faculty
- Attend plenary sessions
- Participate in the Awards Ceremony
- Join other social and scholarly activities organized by the conference

[illegible]

This working group is focused on mentoring undergraduate scholarship and developing the research pipeline for young scholars. It will provide a platform for students to receive constructive feedback on their work, highlight best research practices, and foster academic exchange. Participants will also have the opportunity to network with graduate students and faculty, attend plenary sessions, participate in the Awards Ceremony, and engage in social and scholarly activities organized by the conference.

Call for Submissions: We invite undergraduate students and recent graduates to submit 5-7 page papers. These papers can be aligned with the conference’s theme, “*Generative Acts*,” or explore a subject of the participant’s own interest. To begin the application process, please submit a 200-300 word proposal by **Monday 14 September. Full papers will be due by Monday 19 October.**

Possible Areas of Inquiry Include:

- Dramatic texts, contemporary or historical productions, performance processes
- Traditions of cultural practice (traditional theatre practices of the global majority, religious performance, indigenous performance)
- Socially-engaged, activist, or applied theatre
- Time-based arts (performance art, installations, multimedia work)
- Performance studies topic (sports, political events, clowning, circus, drag, burlesque), or a combination of the above
- Digital, virtual, or AI-generated performance or practice

Timeline:

- 200-300 word Proposals due: **September 14, 2026**
- Final 5-7 page papers due: **October 19, 2026**
- Papers circulated to participants: **October 26, 2026**
- Conference dates: **November 12 – 15, 2026**
- Undergraduate Research group session: **Friday, November 13, 2026 @ 8:30amCT**

Participants are expected to read all submitted papers before the conference and come prepared with questions and feedback for their peers during the working session.

Benefits and Costs: Accepted participants will receive complimentary conference registration. However, they are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs, which may range between \$800-\$1,200 for a three-day stay (including flights, ground transportation, hotel, and meals).

Please share this exciting opportunity with your students, and let's continue to foster the next generation of scholars in our field! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Undergraduate Working Group session convener Megan Sanborn Jones msjones@byu.edu.