Program Overview

In a nine-week summer program (**May 18 through July 17, 2026**) students will:

- Earn $4,500 ($12.50/hr.)
- Gain hands-on experience
- Be mentored in selected focus area by faculty, specialists, county extension agents, and peers
- Choose their own special project
- Enhance their communication and leadership skills
- Expand their professional network
- Receive travel support

Where are the internships located?

The primary location for internships is central Arkansas. If needed, housing options may be available. Please contact Lisa Davis, ldavis@uada.edu, to discuss.

Each scholar will receive an hourly rate of $12.50 ($4,500 for a nine-week appointment) during the summer months of May - July.

Each scholar will be assigned a focus area mentor. Mentors will train, provide hands-on learning opportunities, and will work with interns to develop a special project such as a field demonstration, organizing a public meeting, or other related task as part of the internship.

Student Activities

Internships will be focused on Extension education with three major thrusts:

1. job shadowing and assisting mentor through hands-on experiences,
2. leadership training, and
3. conducting an independent project in focus area. Some examples include field demonstrations, organizing and conducting a public meeting, workshop, or training, etc.

The scholar will assist the mentor or designee in their day-to-day activities as a means of simulating what Extension education is all about in terms of technical programming, building trust through relationships, serving a partner, serving clientele, facilitating meetings, conducting field demonstrations, farm visits, planning, evaluation etc. Scholars will keep a journal of daily activities to document their growth and understanding of Extension.

Secondly, ESP participants will participate in a total of six leadership seminars via Zoom where students will interact with each other, share their experiences, and learn leadership skills as applied in Extension.

Finally, each scholar will work with their mentor to select an Extension project that the scholar will conduct, evaluate, and complete an impact report. Mentors will provide guidelines as to the appropriate scale of a project that can be completed in nine weeks and that targets a need in the county or state.
Arkansas Discovery Farms (ARDF) Program includes 12 privately owned businesses on which water quality research is being conducted. ARDF has emerged as a unique, important educational platform that has been successful in addressing water quality, water use efficiency, and improving soil health.

Scholars will learn to use state-of-the-art water quality monitoring systems installed at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center to document environmental impacts and to demonstrate the potential of Natural Resources Conversation Service (NRCS)-approved conservation practices.

Activities:

- Conduct monitoring (infiltration, soil health, density, water quality, etc.) to assess the need for and effectiveness of conservation practices.
- Provide verification and documentation of nutrient and sediment loss reductions and water conservation in support of nutrient management planning and sound environmental land stewardship.
- Develop and deliver educational programs from data that will educate 4-H groups at the 4-H Center about important conservation efforts.

In addition, Scholars will work with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Stream Team to learn how advocacy impacts conservation of Arkansas water resources.

This research focus area will be led by Dr. Mike Daniels, professor of crop, soil, and environmental science.

Who can apply?

Junior or senior-level undergraduate students who are citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. currently enrolled in any U.S. institution are eligible to apply.

Application Instructions

Complete online UADA application. Submit the following.

- Personal Essay ≤ 1-page (12-point font, 1-inch margins, single-spaced)
  Please address the following:
  - List Focus Area of interest
  - What is your background/life history (≤ 300 words)?
  - What are your long-term career goals (≤ 200 words)?
  - How does participating in this summer program and/or learning about focus area help address your career goals (≤ 300 words)?
- Letter of Reference (1)
- Resume
- Unofficial Transcript

We recommend that you carefully develop your personal essay. All documents should be provided as PDF files with your first and last name included in the file name.

Application Deadline
Applications are open until filled

Experiential Scholars Program