

CCTSJR Undergraduate Research Fellow Information



About the Consortium

The University of Louisville's **Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research** (CCTSJR or simply, the Consortium) began in early 2017. This initiative represents a collaborative effort including more than 30 faculty who participated in brainstorming and the formation of the Consortium. In addition to receiving the internal iRFP grant, the Consortium is supported with pledges from 31 University offices, units, centers, institutes, and departments, and includes participation from 7 colleges and schools. These include Arts & Sciences, Education & Human Development, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Public Health & Information Science, and Social Work., with opportunities for further expansion.

The Consortium will provide a new, university-wide hub for social justice scholarship, bringing interested faculty and students together to incubate new community-engaged transdisciplinary research. The conception of social justice relies on scholars who conceptualize how systems activate and reinforce inequality. The Consortium adopts a transdisciplinary model that stretches past traditional academic multi-disciplinarity or interprofessionalism to foster collaborations across disciplines, colleges, and beyond academia that are dedicated to finding new solutions to complex, intransigent social problems. It will function as the outward face of social justice at the University. Internally, the Consortium will support social justice research, advocacy and community engagement through activities designed to bridge the gap between research and action. Research initiatives will focus on: Community Justice, including Restorative Justice and Housing Justice; Environmental Justice; and Emerging Social Justice Issues such as Health Equity.

The Consortium will create structured opportunities for faculty across disciplines and schools to gather and pursue both internal and external support for their research, as well as provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student engagement. The Consortium will support transdisciplinary research teams through faculty fellowships (direct grants and indirect support), graduate student research fellowships, and undergraduate scholarships. The Consortium will do this work through several structures including a Lead Partner Working Group, Faculty Council, Community Advisory Board and University Advisory Board. The Lead Partner Working Group initially includes the A&S Anne Braden Institute, the Muhammad Ali Institute for Peace & Justice, the Brandeis Laboratory for Democracy and Citizenship, the SPHIS Office of Public Health Practice, and the HSC Office of Health Affairs, Diversity and Inclusion.

Consortium UGRF Specifics

Becoming an Undergraduate Research Fellow (UGRFs) is a two year commitment; therefore, it is only offered to full-time undergraduate students who will be able to devote four semesters to the program. Student participants will receive a \$500 scholarship each semester, for a total program scholarship of \$2,000. UGRFs will be required to maintain a GPA of 2.7 to be admitted to and continue in the program. UGRAs will be matched with a research team that fits into the interest and/or academic goals. Students should pay particular attention to the university's Overaward and Stacking Policies, found at <http://louisville.edu/financialaid/scholarships/overaward-stacking-policies.edu>. If this applies to you, the Consortium will support other professional development opportunities such as attendance at conferences. The Consortium is an intensive experience; therefore, it requires a serious commitment of time and energy. UGRAs will be expected to make the program a high priority in relation to other commitments. This opportunity will be offered to at least 7 students.

Consortium UGRF can expect to:

- Spend an average of 5-10 hours per week, devoted to Consortium activities
- Select an “expert area” on which to focus. Each student will develop expertise in an issue of their choice related to social justice research. This will happen through working with a research team to provide students with exposure to practitioners in that area and hands-on service.
- Provide service to the university community as well as local, national, and/or international organizations and efforts related to peace and social justice
- Conduct research activities on and off the University of Louisville Campus
- Design projects related to his/her expert area
- Be recognized and celebrated for their efforts

Application Process

Application forms are available on the Anne Braden Institute website (www.louisville.edu/braden) and at the Institute office on **JANUARY 30, 2017**. The deadline for applications to be received is 5:00 p.m. on **MARCH 27, 2017**. Applications may be submitted by mail if received by the deadline, or may be hand delivered to the **Anne Braden Institute, 258 Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, 40292.**

Finalists will be invited for interviews to be scheduled the week of April 17th, 2017.

The new Consortium UGRAs will be announced by May 3rd, 2017.

For more information, contact Nia Holt at (502) 852-6142 or by email at transdics@louisville.edu.

CCTSJR Undergraduate Research Fellow Application



Background Information

Name	
Local Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Phone	
E-Mail Address	
Student ID	
Major /Minor	
Expected Graduation (Month/Year)	

Recommendations

You are required to submit two sealed letters of recommendation. Please provide the names and contact information for the people submitting your letters of recommendation.

1.	Name, Title	
	Phone/Email	
2.	Name, Title	
	Phone/Email	

Additional Information Required

Please submit this application with the following documents:

- Your most recent unofficial transcript
- Your resume
- A list of past and present extracurricular activities, both on and off campus
- Personal Statement (see below)
- Essay (see below)

Personal Statement

Why are you interested in transdisciplinary social justice research? How do your personal values and any of your past activities/experiences prepared you for this position? Please include how your personal attributes would be an asset to a research team and what you want to learn/experience/contribute. Please do not exceed 2 pages, double-spaced (12-point font, Times New Roman).

Essay

Please choose one of the essays below. Your answer should not exceed 5 pages double-spaced (12-point font, Times New Roman).

1. This organization has four areas of focus: community justice (emphasis on housing and mass criminalization), environmental justice, emerging issues in social justice (such as health equity) and social justice in West Louisville. First, in your own words define the term "Social Justice". Second, choose one current issue of social justice that aligns with at least one of the areas of focus. Finally, apply your definition of social justice and write a brief analysis of the issue.

--OR--

2. Do you think young people today have the ability to transform their communities? Why or why not? What tools do they have at their disposal? What are their greatest obstacles? How does research fit in?

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted into this program, any false statements, omissions, or other misrepresentations made by me on this application may result in my immediate dismissal.

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	

Our Policy

It is the policy of this organization to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual preference, age, or disability.

Thank you for completing this application and for your interest in the Cooperative Consortium for Transdisciplinary Social Justice Research.

Deadline

Your completed application, including recommendations, must be submitted electronically to transdisciplinary@louisville.edu or delivered in hard copy to **Nia Holt** no later than **5:00 pm on MARCH 2, 2017**:

ATTN: Nia Holt-CCTSJR
c/o Anne Braden Institute,
Ekstrom Library Room 258, University of Louisville,
Louisville, KY 40292.