



Senior Design Project

2026-2027 Funding Options

There are several avenues of support available for undergraduate research projects at Santa Clara University. Please see the list of options below and speak with your advisor early on to determine your project funding plan. Do not expect that others will cover all the costs of your project. It is reasonable to assume that you may need to contribute at least what you might have paid for books.

Several funding options are listed below, approximately in the order in which you should pursue them. Please also review the weekly Undergraduate Engineering Newsletter for other possible funding sources that may arise. Note that the senior design project experience often results in physical or virtual prototypes of devices, processes, apps, etc. Funding beyond that level of fidelity will likely not be funded by the sources listed below.

1. **Santa Clara University Undergraduate Research Support:**

There are several offices/labs on campus that offer research funding to undergraduate projects. See a short list of resources below and check with those offices for any application criteria and deadlines:

- **Faculty Research Labs:** Most research faculty have worked to fund their research projects and labs. They may have funding for senior design projects that align with their research interests or for projects that they are advising.
- **School of Engineering Labs and Hubs:** Some specialized labs and hubs may have additional funding for projects given alignment of the student work with their initiatives:
 - i. **Robotic Systems Lab**, Christopher Kitts ckitts@scu.edu, and Michael Neumann, maneumann@scu.edu
 - ii. **Frugal Innovation Hub**, Allan Baez Morales, abaezmorales@scu.edu
 - iii. **Latimer Energy Lab**, Maryam Khanbaghi, mkhanbaghi@scu.edu
 - iv. **Healthcare and Innovation Design Lab**, Prashanth Asuri, asurip@scu.edu

2. **Engineering Undergraduate Programs Senior Design Project Funding:**

Review our [Senior Design Resources page](#) under Project Funding. Note that receiving funds from Undergraduate Programs commits your team to presenting your project at some in-person events, normally winter or spring quarter, such as poster sessions at Family Weekend in February, Preview Weekend in April, and Engineering high school outreach programs. *Note: No team will be awarded more than the **maximum \$500 per student**, and few teams will be funded at that level. Undergraduate programs also does not fund student travel. If your project expects to travel domestically, you may consider applying for a [Faculty-Mentored Undergraduate Research Support](#) (2FURS) grant with your faculty advisor. Fall cycle applications for 2FURS closes on Oct. 5, 2026.*

Online proposal submission form with Budget found on the Senior Design Resources page.

Contact: Jess Caldwell-O'Keefe, jcaldwellokeefe@scu.edu

Deadline for Proposals: October 19, 2025

3. **External Funding:**

Work with your advisor to assemble a list of public and private companies, and educational organizations whose work aligns with your project and from whom you may seek funding or in-kind gifts of project materials. Before contact is made with these external prospects (by students or faculty members), they must be vetted by the School of Engineering and the University's corporate relations office to determine any conflicts with current University funding plans or donor relationships. Contact Dr. Chris Kitts <ckitts@scu.edu> if you hope to receive funding from external partners. Prepare and include a funding request letter, project overview, and detailed budget to share with potential donors. *Note that arranging external support of this type can often take months, and consequently, this option may not be practical for teams that haven't already initiated this process during their junior year.*

4. **Individual Department Funding Support:** (May or may not be available.)

Your Department may or may not have funding available for senior design projects. You may contact your department chair to determine if funding is available.

- BIOE: Emre Araci, iaraci@scu.edu
- CENG: Aria Amirbahman, aamirbahman@scu.edu
- COEN: Silvia Figueira, sfigueira@scu.edu
- ECEN: SAleksandar Stankovic, astankovic@scu.edu
- GENG: Matthew Gaudet, mgaudet2@scu.edu
- MECH: Michael Taylor, mjtaylor@scu.edu

5. **Engineering Dean's Office (LAST RESORT):**

If a project has truly exhausted all prior options and is still in need of funding, support may be requested from the Dean's Office. Any students who seek funding from the Dean's Office who have skipped one or more of these prior steps will be redirected back to those options. Each student group that submits a proposal for funding from the Dean must document what they have received or applied for from each area noted above. Dean's office funding will almost certainly include commitments to participating in the types of events highlighted in Item 2 describing funding through the Engineering Undergraduate Programs Office.

Contact: Asst. Dean Jess Caldwell-O'Keefe, jcaldwellokeefe@scu.edu