

Department: **MESA, College of Science, Technology and Business**

Working Title: **MESA Fellow (Summer Undergraduate Researcher)**

Classification: **Instructional Student Assistant**

Number of Openings: **11**

Pay Rate: **\$21 /hour**

Appointment: **up to 30 hours per week**

Expected Dates of Employment: **Monday, June 8, 2026 - Friday, July 31, 2026**

Deadline to Apply: **Sunday, April 12, 2026, 11:59 PM**

Requisition #: **MESA_ISA_SUM26**

DUTIES OF THE POSITION

As a MESA Fellow, you can expect the following:

- An 8-week research project
- Regular check-ins with your Principal Investigator (Faculty member/mentor)
- Bi-weekly MESA Fellows group meetings
- One-on-one check-ins with MESA Lead
- Submit and present a final research poster at the MESA Summer Research Symposium (date TBD)
- MESA Fellows will work up to 30 hours per week for 8 weeks at \$21.00 per hour
 - Start date: Monday, June 8, 2026
 - End date: Friday, July 31, 2026
- Principal Investigators (P.I.) will receive a \$1,200 stipend per student at the end of the summer
 - \$300 is available to purchase research materials

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

The ability to learn and perform assigned work; work cooperatively with faculty, staff, and other students; and accept responsibility. Completion of specific coursework may be required in order to teach, grade, complete research, or tutor for a course. Admission or registration as a University student. Note: Exceptions to the minimum eligibility qualifications may be granted at the sole discretion of the University.

HIRING CRITERIA

MESA Fellows must be in good academic standing with the University and are current undergraduate students in the MESA program. Students graduating this spring or summer are not eligible. Students must work with a Sonoma State Faculty when conducting their research.

During the review process, the Selection Committee will prioritize the following:

- Students who have not previously participated in the MESA Summer Undergraduate Research Program
- Students with no prior summer research experiences

- Students who have been an active MESA member in Fall 2025 or earlier
- Junior and Senior standing (students may not have a planned graduation date of Spring 2026 or Summer 2026)
- Students working with a faculty member within a STEM major MESA supports

Strong applicants who previously applied but were not selected are encouraged to reapply.

HOW TO APPLY

The application closes on **Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 11:59 PM.**

Students are responsible for identifying and securing a Sonoma State faculty mentor prior to applying. MESA does not match students with faculty mentors.

Both the student and faculty sections of the application must be submitted by the stated deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Student Application ([Google Form](#))

- Applicants must submit:
 - The name of a Sonoma State faculty mentor who has agreed to serve as their summer research mentor.
 - A **Statement of Purpose (250-500 words)** addressing:
 - Why they want to participate in summer research
 - What specific topics or areas of research interest them
 - How this opportunity aligns with their academic and career goals
 - A **brief description (2-3 sentences)** of the general research topic or area they plan to explore with their faculty mentor

Faculty Mentor Submission ([Google Form](#))

- The faculty letter of recommendation is a required and important component of the selection process.
- Faculty mentors must submit:
 - A **letter of recommendation** evaluating the student's readiness for summer research or their potential to benefit from structured mentorship, and confirming the faculty member's commitment to mentor the student throughout the 8-week program.
 - Confirmation that the faculty mentor and student will submit a detailed project proposal and materials request if the student is selected.
 - Confirmation that the faculty mentor has or can acquire the facilities and materials necessary for the proposed research project.

Link to the Google Form application: <https://forms.gle/83Rvfvnu2AoNGqMu8>

HIRING NOTIFICATION

Selected MESA Fellows will be notified via email at the end of April and announced at the MESA End of the Year Celebration scheduled for Friday, May 8, 2026 from 4pm-6pm.

SUPERVISOR

Christina Thao (thaoch@sonoma.edu)

OTHER INFORMATION

- The classification, Instructional Student Assistant, is one of three classifications in a collective bargaining unit, Unit 11. Instructional Student Assistants, who must be currently enrolled University students, perform tutoring, grading, or teaching-related duties under the supervision of faculty or professional staff.
- Sonoma State University hires only individuals lawfully authorized to work in the United States. All offers of employment are contingent upon presentation of documents demonstrating the appointee's identity and eligibility to work, in accordance with the provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act.
- The university is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. We consider qualified applicants for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, medical condition, disability, marital status, or protected veteran status.
- This position is considered a "mandated reporter" under the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act and is required to comply with the requirements set forth in CSU Executive Order 1083 as a condition of employment.
- Successful candidates may be required to do a background check (including a criminal records check) before work in the position can begin.

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1801 East Cotati Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609