

The Art Friedel Honors Experiential Learning Award Announcement and Application

The Purdue University Fort Wayne Honors Program is pleased to announce the Art Friedel Honors Experiential Learning Award for 2025–2026. This award has been generously established by Dr. Arthur W. (“Art”) Friedel, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, to support Honors students in pursuing high-impact experiential learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom.

Dr. Friedel has dedicated over 50 years of service to Purdue University Fort Wayne as an esteemed chemistry professor, mentor, and devoted supporter of student success and athletics. His enduring legacy continues through this award, which reflects his lifelong commitment to student-centered learning, mentorship, and experiential education.

The Art Friedel Honors Experiential Learning Award may be granted to one or multiple recipients, with a total amount of up to \$6,000 to provide funding to help PFW Honors Program students participate in transformative experiential learning opportunities—such as internships, research projects, service-learning, study away or abroad programs, and other immersive educational experiences, particularly those outside the Fort Wayne area that may present financial barriers.

Award Criteria and Eligibility

To qualify, applicants must:

- Be a full-time student enrolled at Purdue University Fort Wayne.
- Have a GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- Be a Sophomore or Junior in the Honors Program.
- Have completed at least 9 Honors credits.
- Demonstrate strong engagement and good standing in the Honors Program.

Financial need will be considered but is not required.

Award amounts will vary depending on the scope of the proposed experience and available funding.

Application Components

A complete application consists of:

1. Information Page (see below)
2. Essay (instructions below)
3. Letter of Recommendation from a faculty member
4. Signed FERPA Release Form permitting the selection committee and recommender to review academic records

Applicants selected as finalists will be invited to a personal interview with the selection committee. All materials must be submitted by Friday, February 27, 2026, to the Honors Program Office (LB 207) or via email to combsf@pfw.edu with the subject line "Art Friedel Honors Experiential Learning Award Application." Submissions may be hand-delivered, emailed, or placed in the secure Honors Program drop box.

Essay Instructions

Provide an essay of approximately 1,500 words or less addressing the following:

- Detailed description of the experiential learning activity.
- An explanation as to why you expect to have a positive and successful experience with the proposed opportunity.
- A description of how you would be a good ambassador for Purdue University Fort Wayne.
- A summary of experiences and studies that prepare you for this opportunity.
- (If applicable) A description of any international or cultural experiences, travel, or language study relevant to your project.
- The reasons why this experiential learning experience will help you fulfill your educational and future career goals.

Selection Process

The Honors Program Director will convene a Selection Committee composed of full-time faculty members representing various colleges and schools at Purdue Fort Wayne. Selection will be based on merit, relevance, and quality of the proposed experience. The Director will serve as a non-voting member except in the event of a tie. The Purdue Fort Wayne Honors Program will administer the award.

Pre-Experience Requirement

- Meet with Dr. Art Friedel before the experience for mentorship discussions.

Post-Experience Requirements

After completing the funded experience, recipients must:

- Submit a written report describing their experience and reflecting on its impact within one month following the completion of the experiential learning activity.
- Offer advice and support to future candidates.
- Meet with Dr. Art Friedel after the experience for mentorship discussions.

Recipients may also be invited to present their experiences at Honors events or share reflections for program publications.



Art Friedel Honors Experiential Learning Award Application

To apply for an Art Friedel Honors Experiential Learning Award, you must submit a signed information page, essay, and signed FERPA form and also arrange for a letter of recommendation to be submitted by a faculty member on your behalf. For more information on all of this, please see the award announcement. DUE DATE: Friday, February 27, 2026. All application components are due at the Honors Program by 11:59 PM on this date, either in person at the Honors Center in Helmke Library Room 207 or via email to combsf@pfw.edu using the subject line "Art Friedel Honors Experiential Learning Award Application". It is fine if one or more items are sent in person while the other one or more are sent via email.

Information Page

Name: _____

PFW Student ID Number: _____

Major: _____

Total Credit Hours Completed: _____

GPA: _____

Proposed Experience Type (e.g., internship, study abroad, research): _____

Faculty Recommender: _____

Certification: By signing below, I confirm that the information provided is accurate and that, if selected, I agree to fulfill all requirements of the Art Friedel Honors Experiential Learning Award.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Letter of Recommendation

Applicants must request a faculty member to submit a letter of recommendation by the application deadline. Please provide your recommender with the FERPA release form (available from the Honors Program Office).

FERPA Release Form

Complete and sign a FERPA form granting permission to the Honors Program Selection Committee and your faculty recommender to review your transcript and academic records for this award. A copy is also attached to the end of this application packet.

Submission Deadline

Friday, February 27, 2026 – 11:59 PM

Submit all materials to:

Honors Program Office (LB 207)

or email: combsf@pfw.edu

Subject line: "Art Friedel Honors Experiential Learning Award Application"



FERPA RELEASE
Letter of Recommendation
Purdue University Fort Wayne
2101 East Coliseum Blvd
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

Name of Student _____
(Print Name) (Student ID #)

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), I, the undersigned, hereby authorize _____ [*instructor / staff name*] to write a letter of recommendation in which he/she may reference the following educational records and information:
[*list educational records information that will be included, such as*]

1. Grades
2. GPA

to: _____
[*name and address of receiving party provided by student*]

for the purpose of *providing a recommendation for employment or scholarship.*

I understand further that (1) I have the right not to consent to the release of my education records for this letter; (2) I have the right to receive a copy of this letter upon request unless I waive that right; (3) and that this consent shall remain in effect until revoked by me, in writing, and delivered to Purdue University Fort Wayne, but that any such revocation shall not affect disclosures previously made by Purdue Fort Wayne prior to the receipt of any such written revocation.

- ☐ I waive my right to review a copy of this letter at any time in the future.
- ☐ I do not waive my right to review a copy of this letter at any time in the future.

Student's Signature

Date

THIS INFORMATION IS RELEASED SUBJECT TO THE CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISIONS OF FERPA AND OTHER APPROPRIATE STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS, WHICH PROHIBIT ANY FURTHER DISCLOSURE OF THIS INFORMATION WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE PERSON TO WHOM IT PERTAINS, OR AS OTHERWISE PERMITTED BY SUCH REGULATIONS.

cc: _____ [*same as above recipient of letter*]