



STTAR (*Students in Technology Transfer And Research*)

Program Information

The **Students in Technology Transfer And Research (STTAR)** program provides upper-division students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) with an opportunity to use their academic training and experience to address the most challenging science and technology-based problems faced by North Dakota companies. The primary emphasis of STTAR is on research and development rather than sales and marketing. **The ND EPSCoR Office cost-shares the student salary.**

The ND EPSCoR Office established the STTAR program in 1994 in response to recognized state and national needs for increased technology transfer from universities to industry. Since that time, over 100 North Dakota companies from across the state have participated in this highly successful program.

Business Eligibility:

The North Dakota business enterprise does NOT have to be a technology company to be eligible for assistance. However, the research effort or specific problem to be addressed must have its foundation in STEM. To participate, companies must demonstrate that students will make significant contributions to company performance or new product/process development using their science and technology education and experience. Companies must provide at least a **1:1 cost-share**, which would be a minimum salary of \$15/hour to the student. In 2023 priority will go to companies in the biosciences arena, with an emphasis on 1) materials design at biointerfaces, 2) cellular systems at materials interface, and 2) computation, machine learning, and predictive modeling.

How to Apply:

- Download, complete *Business Application Form* located at: <https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/ndep/sttar/>
- **Email completed form** as an attachment to ndepscor@ndus.edu with the subject line: "2023 STTAR Application."

What to Expect:

- STTAR program receives company applications; in some cases, a student is already identified
- STTAR program notifies the company of application award status
- If awarded, and the company has not already identified a student, the company forwards job openings to campus career offices to post, or you can use your own screening process
- Students apply to companies via their campus career office
- Company screens applications, sets up and completes interviews, and hires
- Company signs and returns completed contract(s) to STTAR program
- Companies and students provide final reports to STTAR program
- Companies invoice STTAR

**Student Eligibility:**

North Dakota University System students, ND residents enrolled at other colleges and universities, and students enrolled at tribal colleges/universities in ND are eligible to work with North Dakota companies for a minimum of eight (8) weeks during summer months; must be U.S. citizens or possess an immigration (i.e., INS) work permit and be enrolled in cooperative education/internship course credits *if they are a first time hire with a STTAR company*. They must also have completed their sophomore year in college (determined by credits completed).

Salaries/Cost Sharing:

STTAR cost-share is \$7.50/hour. Companies must provide a minimum 1:1 match. Salary for the student in the summer must be a minimum of \$600 per week (\$15/hour; minimum of 8 weeks; maximum of 12 weeks, based on 40hrs/week).

Maximum summer program award from ND EPSCoR: \$3,600 (480 hrs x \$7.50) based on a billable 40 hrs/week.

Please note that competitive salaries for technically-trained students generally exceed \$15 per hour, based on cooperative education salary data.

Anticipated Funding:

Allocation of positions is based on the availability of funds.

TIMELINE: STTAR Summer 2023 contract award period: May 16 - August 15, 2023

- March 31, 2023: Business Applications due to STTAR program
- April 15, 2023: Last day student applications are forwarded to companies from Career offices
- May 5, 2023: Last day for companies to hire and notify ND EPSCoR and Career Centers of student hired Company
- May 12, 2023: Company signed contracts due to STTAR program
- May 16, 2023: STTAR contract award period begins
- August 15, 2023: STTAR contract award period ends

STTAR is administered through the combined efforts of ND EPSCoR and the North Dakota University System Career Center Offices. **Questions?** Please email ndepscor@ndus.edu

The overall goal of the North Dakota Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ND EPSCoR) is to increase the competitiveness of North Dakota for merit-based grants and contracts in support of research in the disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) from federal funding agencies in an atmosphere that promotes leadership, teamwork and the convergence of those sciences. The STTAR program is open to students and faculty at designated state university system campuses. NDSU is an Equal Opportunity Employer.