

## **The Professor Bob Baker Memorial Award for Undergraduate Achievement Established by Dexter Holland**

The Department of Biological Sciences is pleased to announce the **Professor Bob Baker Memorial Award established by Dexter Holland**, which recognizes the outstanding achievements of undergraduate students within the department. This award will provide a stipend up to \$2,000.

Dr. Robert “Bob” Baker joined USC Dornsife in 1968, when molecular biology was in its infancy. Upon coming to USC, Bob Baker began working to build the university’s efforts in the field. Bob Baker’s research focused primarily on the molecules involved in sea urchin embryo development. He later expanded his studies to explore unique structural features of DNA. His success in teaching undergraduates and recruiting and training graduate students further advanced the molecular biology work at USC Dornsife.

Dexter Holland, founding singer, guitarist and songwriter of The Offspring, earned his bachelor’s degree in biological sciences, master’s in molecular biology, and returned years later after focusing on his band to earn his PhD in molecular biology. While pursuing these degrees at USC, Dr. Baker was an inspiring and influential educator and mentor to Dexter. When learning of his passing, Dexter established this award to carry on Dr. Baker’s legacy and passion for life sciences.

### **Purpose of the Award**

The **Professor Bob Baker Memorial Award for Undergraduate Achievement** honors the legacy of Professor Bob Baker by celebrating undergraduate students who demonstrate excellence in one or more of the following areas:

- Academic performance
- Research contributions
- Leadership within the department or broader community
- Service and outreach that support the mission of the department

This award reflects Professor Baker’s lifelong dedication to student success and scientific advancement, and it serves as a lasting tribute to his impact on our department and the field of biological sciences.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

The Department of Biological Sciences is proud to support and highlight the hard work, talent, and dedication of our undergraduate scholars. All undergraduate students majoring in Biological Sciences are encouraged to apply or to nominate a fellow student who exemplifies the spirit of this award.

Qualifications for the award:

- Declared BISC, HBIO, CPNS or NEUR undergraduate major in the Department of Biological Sciences.
- Full-time enrollment at USC for the semester

- A recipient of other funding sources such as the Provost Fellowship (PURF) or SOAR will not be contemporaneously considered for this award.
- Including other funding sources, a student's total funding should not exceed \$3000.
- The stipend is a single payment credited to the student's university account. **This payment may affect the student's financial aid award.** Student recipients should contact their financial aid officer to determine the impact of this payment on their financial aid package. The department will require written confirmation from student recipients that the award will not negatively impact their financial aid.
- 3.0 cumulative USC GPA or better and a 3.0 science GPA or better.

### Application Process

Applications will be accepted online via a Google form starting on **October 1, 2025**. The Google form link is below:

<https://forms.gle/8XGJHgFCSHmkzEen6>

Please review the application checklist below and follow the steps when you are ready to submit your application. **All application materials must be received by noon on October 31, 2025.**

### Application Checklist

Please submit your application with all of the following materials by the listed deadline. Please submit one application per person. **Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**

1. Fill out all required information in the application form using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/8XGJHgFCSHmkzEen6>

The form requires a nomination statement that summarizes your qualifications for this award. Highlight your skills, experience, accomplishments, and positive impacts on the department, USC or the community. Provide specific examples of your achievements and qualities that make you a great candidate for the award.

2. A faculty letter of recommendation is not required but recommended. If the faculty member prefers to send the letter of recommendation directly to the selection committee, please have your faculty referee send the recommendation as a pdf to Linda Bazilian at [bazilian@usc.edu](mailto:bazilian@usc.edu) by the application deadline.
3. Upload a current STARS Report (printed from OASIS) if this is a **self-nomination**.
  - If you log on to OASIS, you should be able to view your STARS report. If you select the "Print" option from your internet browser, you will have the option to either "Save as PDF" or to "Print to PDF," this will create a PDF document of your STARS report, which can then be saved.

4. Upload an up-to-date resume outlining your academic and professional experience. If you have never created a resume before or would like additional guidance, please go to the Career Center website <https://careers.usc.edu/channels/create-a-resume-cover-letter/> for resources and tools for writing and revising a resume.

### **Selection Process**

An Award Selection Committee will review each application. Competitive proposals will be ranked using the one or more selection criteria outlined below. The Awards Selection Committee intends to fund all competitive proposals.

- Strength of student's academic record
- Clear and strong evidence of excellence in research
- Clear and strong evidence of leadership within the department, USC, or the community
- Clear and strong evidence of service and/or outreach that supports the mission of the department
- Recommendation by a faculty member

As part of the acceptance of this award, Dornsife Advancement will contact recipients for a letter to the donor of this fund, Dexter Holland, to share their experiences as a USC student.

### **Announcement of Awards**

We anticipate notifying funded students by **November 14, 2025**.