

# The Carl Strom / Western Exterminator Company Scholarship in Urban Entomology 2026

Western Exterminator Company, the West's largest and oldest family-owned structural pest control company, has established a scholarship fund at the University of California, Riverside, to support undergraduate and graduate students studying and conducting research in Urban Entomology. Founded in 1921, Western is recognized as a leading service provider and innovator in the structural pest control industry. Western Exterminator Company focuses on the control of pest insects, spiders, wood-destroying organisms, and vertebrate pests in and around structures. The intention of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to outstanding students to further studies and research that benefit the structural pest control industry. Both financial need and research excellence will be considered.

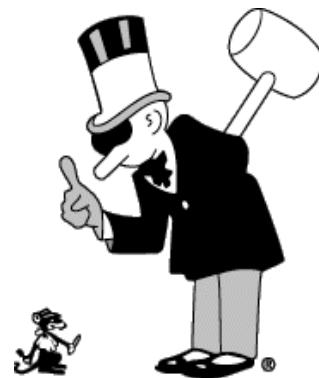
**Award:** Scholarships in Urban Entomology are available for graduate student (Ph.D. or M.S.) and undergraduate student. There may be multiple graduate or undergraduate recipients. The scholarships are awarded at the annual UCR Urban Pest Management Conference at which recipients are expected to attend and give a poster presentation of their research. The cost of the poster will be paid for by conference funds. We plan to hold the 2026 conference on **March 24** at the UCR Hub (Conference Room 302).

**Eligibility:** Recipients must be a full-time U.C. Riverside student in good standing with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0. The student's area of study, research emphasis, or interest shall be in an area of benefit to the structural pest control industry of California. Such areas include, but are not limited to the biology and control of urban insect pests, issues dealing with chemical residues or exposure, urban pesticides in the environment, or novel / creative strategies for urban insect pest management. Undergraduates are encouraged to complete a research course in urban entomology (Special Studies ENTM 190 or Research for Undergraduates ENTM 197) before or during the academic year they receive the award.

**Application Process:** Candidates must provide (1) a 1-page maximum self-statement concerning their need for the scholarship, and (2) a 3-page maximum research statement on their research and its relevance to the structural pest control industry. Please also attach the scholarship application form. Applications are to be submitted to Dr. Dong-Hwan Choe, Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521 (email submission is preferred). A committee comprised of representatives of the UCR Department of Entomology and Western Exterminator Company select the scholarship recipients. **Complete applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. February 5, 2026.**

**WESTERN  
EXTERMINATOR  
COMPANY**

For questions, contact Dr. Dong-Hwan Choe  
[donghwan.choe@ucr.edu](mailto:donghwan.choe@ucr.edu)



## APPLICATION FORM

# The Carl Strom / Western Exterminator Company Scholarship in Urban Entomology 2026

Applicant's name \_\_\_\_\_  
(print)

Contact e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check*  UCR Graduate student  or  UCR Undergraduate student

**(1) Self-statement** (1-page maximum, please attach separately)

Briefly introduce yourself, discussing your academic goals, educational and research background, and professional interests. Identify key qualities, achievements, or experiences that support your anticipated successful completion of the proposed research project.

**(2) Research statement** (3-page maximum, please attach separately)

Provide a concise statement of your research focus and include background information on the value of this research. Explain your research methodology and present any preliminary / final data that you have. Describe what you have learned in the process of conducting your research, and future direction of the research. Discuss how your research findings might contribute to urban pest management.