Welcome to the University of California, Santa Cruz!

**Undergraduate Research (UR)** is done in every department at UCSC.

Examples include:
- Critical analysis of primary or secondary sources
- Design
- Scientific investigations in social, physical, and biological sciences
- Creative projects or activities
- Performance arts

Participating in UR gives you the opportunity to put your coursework to use and to be actively involved in your own education.
How to Prepare for UR

• Get good grades.
  o Many programs have a GPA requirement.
  o Take advantage of support programs, like Learning Support Services. See the link below to Academic Support.
  o Study in groups.
• Go to office hours regularly.
  o Ask questions about the class or the instructor’s research or career path.
  o You need to build relationships so that you can learn about opportunities and get good reference letters.
• Find professors who are doing research that interests you and talk to them now.
  o Look at department webpages to learn about professors’ research topics.
  o Email the professors or go to office hours and ask the professors about their research and what they look for in an undergraduate research assistant.
• Take advantage of campus services.
  o Meet with your the adviser for your major and your college adviser.
  o Visit the Career Center. They can help you choose a major.
• Start researching summer opportunities the previous fall and winter. Many summer programs have application deadlines November-February.
  o You need time to learn about the program and prepare your application.
  o Summer mentors can provide references letters.
• Join a student organization.
  o Clubs provide a community of like-minded peers.
  o You can learn about many research opportunities from friends.

For more information, visit the

UCSC Undergraduate Research Opportunities website: UGR.UE.UCSC.EDU

With links to:
• Academic Support: https://ugr.ue.ucsc.edu/Academic_Support
• Frequently Asked Questions: https://ugr.ue.ucsc.edu/FAQ
• How to Email a Professor https://ugr.ue.ucsc.edu/email_examples
• Undergraduate Research Opportunities Database: https://ugr.ue.ucsc.edu/database