Getting Involved in Undergraduate Research: Social Sciences & Humanities

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Who are you?

- Name
- Major
- Year
- Any UR experience
- Plan/goal for after college
Overview

- Define Undergraduate Research (UR)
- Explore why you should do UR
- Explore your research interests and goals
- Discuss resources for finding an opportunity
- Introduce Undergraduate Research Opportunities website
- Discuss how you can get involved
- Explore funding sources
- Discuss timelines
Undergraduate research is an inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline. (www.cur.org)
Research in Each Division

- Break up into groups of 3-4
- Come up with examples for each division:
  - Arts
  - Engineering
  - Humanities
  - Physical and Biological Sciences
  - Social Sciences
Some Examples

- **Arts** - painting, theater/musical performance
- **Engineering** - game design, robotics for medical purposes
- **Humanities** - historical and linguistic analysis
- **Physical and Biological Sciences** - evolution of plants, geological analysis
- **Social Sciences** - child brain development, patterns of human migration
Benefits for Doing UR

- Participate in the university community
- Engage in the practice of your discipline
- Create knowledge, not just consume
- Complement coursework
- Help get into graduate school or job
- Career exploration
- Develop important traits: creativity, curiosity, ability to focus, verbal and written fluency, and respect for others’ contributions
Interests, Goals, & Practical Issues

- What classes/topics inspire you?
- What career involves your interests?
  - Does it require research training?
- What practical issues are there?
  - Do you have the time?
  - Do you need a paid position or credits?
  - Does the position require transportation?
Finding an Opportunity

- Networking
  - Friends, TAs, professors, etc.
  - Student groups
  - Informational interviews (CAN)
  - Department, EOP, College Advisers

- Web resources
  - UCSC UR webpage
  - Career Center
  - Databases (more later)
Goals:
- Assist UCSC undergraduates to get involved in research
- Increase awareness of the important contributions of UCSC UR
- Educate faculty, staff, prospective students, and the community about UR at UCSC
APPLICATION DATES

- Late April–May
  - Proposals for UCSC Literature Colloquium due 4/18; email litdept@ucsc.edu
  - Provost’s Sustainability Internship Program due 4/27
  - Koffend Fund Field Study Scholarship for Community Studies students due 5/1

EVENTS

- Zia Isola: Undergraduate Professional Development Workshop: Demystifying Graduate School
  Monday, April 21, 12:30 PM to 1:45 PM
- Society of Women Engineers Region A Conference
  Friday, April 25, 9:00 AM to Sunday, April 27, 9:00 PM

NEWS & AWARDS

- CLRC Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program Event 5/1
- EPA GRO Fellowship, application due 5/27
- $2-million gift supports natural history fieldwork at UC Santa Cruz
  April, 2014

http://ugr.ucsc.edu
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

OVERVIEW

FOR STUDENTS

FOR MENTORS

DATABASE

CALENDAR

CONTACT

Social Sciences Division

Join a Lab or Research Group
Application Tips & Deadlines
Research Opportunities Database
Other Research Opportunities
Academic Options & the Senior Exit Requirement

May
- Application for PhD: Engineering 16th Undergraduate Research Symposium due 5/8
- Sociology of Race Senior Thesis Award due 5/8
- Patricia and Rowland Rebele Grants in the History of Art and Visual Culture due 5/15
- UCSC Wind Ensemble: More Favorites for Wind & Percussion Saturday, May 18, 2013 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

http://ugr.ucsc.edu/
Social Sciences Division

Social Sciences Undergraduate Research

In keeping with the University of California's three-part mission: research, teaching, and public service, the Division of Social Sciences has a strong history of integrating undergraduates into the research endeavor. (from Social Science Research)

For an example of Undergraduate Research in History, see the profile of Lois Rosson.

Select one of the topics below:
Preparing for Undergraduate Research
Finding a Research Opportunity
Join a Lab or Research Group
Funding Your Research
Presentation Opportunities
Communicating Your Research—posters and papers
Student Organizations

Finding a Research Opportunity
Finding a research opportunity is a process that will take a considerable amount of time and commitment. The first step is to identify an area of interest. Consider your interests and the fields that excite you. Then, explore the options available within those fields. You can start by attending seminars, workshops, and conferences in your area of interest. Additionally, you can reach out to faculty members to learn more about their research and potential opportunities. This will help you gain a better understanding of the research process and how you can get involved.
Undergraduate Research Opportunities Database for UCSC and the Region

This database is continually updated. If you know of a program that should be added, contact rlanders@ucsc.edu. See Other Research Opportunities at http://ugr.ucsc.edu/other for additional programs, including Federal Programs.

Filter by Program Name

Filter by Description, Keyword, or Contact

Major(s)

Anthropology
Applied Physics
Art
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Bioengineering
Bioinformatics
Biology
Business Management Economics

Hold shift (PC) or command (Mac) to select multiple majors. If no majors are selected, then all programs are displayed.

http://ugr.ucsc.edu/database
Other Research Opportunities

Here is a sampling of research opportunities and databases. Please note that we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the sites.

Databases & Comprehensive Listings

Cross-discipline
- From Pathways to Science
- UC Irvine's Opportunities Database
- CSUMB Summer Research Opportunities

Federal Agency Programs
- Internship and Fellowship Opportunities in Science with the US government
- Department of Energy's (DOE) SULI Programs – Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships at national laboratories across the country. These Internships are run for 10 weeks during the summer. There are also opportunities during the fall and spring semesters. Internships are offered in areas such as physics, biology, chemistry, environmental and atmospheric sciences, engineering, computers applied mathematics and nuclear science.
- DOE Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship is a 10-week summer internship program that offers opportunities to minority and female students who are pursuing degrees in majors. Candidates who are selected will have the opportunity to work on

http://ugr.ucsc.edu/other
Programs & Positions

- Programs often involve:
  - Multiple students
  - A formal application/evaluation process
  - Extra activities and/or benefits
  - May involve placement with a professor
  - May include a stipend and/or funding for research expenses
Programs & Positions (cont.)

- Positions
  - Often negotiated directly with a professor/mentor/supervisor
  - May be volunteer, for credit, or paid
  - May be flexible
How Do I Get Involved?
Programs & Positions

• Be focused and assertive
• You are here, you can do it!
• Get an overview of the work
• Read web information thoroughly
• Apply to everything!
• Don’t take the process personally
How Do I Get Involved in a Program?

- Make sure you meet the eligibility requirements
- Meet/E-mail the contact person/coordinator well before the deadline, ask questions and for suggestions
- Notify your mentor about your application and when you’ll be asking for letters
  - See handout for link to Application Tips
UCSC Programs of Interest

- College Research Fellowships (check with your college adviser)
- UCDC- UC Washington Center
  - 5/17 for winter, 2015
- UCCS- UC Center at Sacramento
  - 5/30 priority date for fall, 2014
Examples of UCSC Programs of Interest

- Learning and Experimental Economics Projects (LEEPS)-contact program
- Humanities Undergraduate Research Awards (HUGRA)- fall application
- Pathways to Research (EOP students)- fall application
More UCSC Programs of Interest

- Research Mentoring Institute (RMI)
  - For working on any aspect of the human genome, including Social Sciences and Humanities

- Some classes include research
  - Psychology 194
  - ENVS Internship Program

- Be sure to check your department for additional options
Summer Programs

- Deadlines early in the new year
- Start looking in fall
- See Application Tips webpage
- You’ll need two reference letters
- From website Other Research Opportunities:
  - Smithsonian Office of Fellowships and Internships
    - Opportunities from accounting to environmental studies
  - National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program
    - Includes Education, Ethics, Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences and Economics
Application Tips & Deadlines

**Application Tips**

- Help for every step of the process from Pathways to Science
- How to effectively obtain a letter of recommendation (from UCSC STEM Diversity)
- Writing a Curriculum Vitae (CV) (from UCSC STEM Diversity)
- Writing the Curriculum Vitae (from Purdue Owl Online Writing Lab)
- Writing the Personal Statement (from Purdue Owl Online Writing Lab)
- Summer Research - Applying and Getting in (from UCSC STEM Diversity)

**Application Deadlines**

**April, 2013**

- Psychology UR Funding due 4/5
- Deans’ and Chancellor’s Awards due 4/8
- Arts Division Internship Application due 4/12
- UCIRA Undergraduate Action Research Grant due 4/15

http://ugr.ucsc.edu/application_i...
Getting a Position

- Identify a professor whose you are interested in
  - Seminars, talks, etc.
  - List of Professor’s research interests
  - Don’t overlook industry, non-profits, government
- Contact the professor
  - E-mails should:
    - Be formal (Dear Dr. or Professor)
    - Be specific to the professor (refer to paper, webpage, etc.)
    - Explain why research is critical for your goals
    - Have correct spelling and grammar
    - See examples on UR webpage
Hi Joe,

My name is (Name) and I am a major in (name major). Do you want a research assistant? If so, what is the pay rate?

Thanks,
Name
Dear Dr. Professor,

I am a (year, major) at (university) and I am writing to ask about opportunities for undergraduate research with you. I am especially interested in your work on (describe a paper or talk). I would appreciate the chance to meet with you to discuss (the topic) and possible opportunities for me to become involved in the project. I am eager to develop my research skills while an undergraduate to help me (career goal).

I have attached my CV and unofficial transcript. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Ambitious Student
Email address
Getting a Position

- Go to office hours
  - Go right after an assignment is due
  - Be considerate
  - Show genuine interest
  - Ask about research and for advice
- You can go see a professor you don’t have a class with
The Independent Study Option

Why?
- When you have an idea or interest not covered in a class

How?
- Check your department's webpage and with your academic adviser for policies & procedures
- Find a few professors with similar interests.
  - Look online at their webpages
  - Read a few papers
- Write a brief overview and timeline
The Independent Study Option (cont.)

- Contact the professors through email/office hours
  - Be formal
  - Write professional emails
  - Check grammar and spelling
  - Refer to the professor’s work or research

- Discuss your project with the professor.
  - Remember he or she is an expert in this field and be respectful
  - Explain your idea and timeline
The Independent Study Option (cont.)

- Make sure you file the forms by the deadlines and get required signatures.
- Stay in touch with your faculty sponsor.
The Independent Project Option

Many students are interested in pursuing independent research projects and need to find a faculty sponsor. Listed below are some tips to help you succeed with an independent study project.

Steps to a Successful Independent Study Project

1. Check your Department's webpage to see if there is information posted about undergraduate research and/or independent study projects. Linguistics, for example, has a very useful site on undergraduate research and independent study.

2. Consider what quarter you should do your project. Independent projects take a significant amount of time. When you are planning your project, think about what other classes and personal commitments you will have that quarter.

One option, for highly motivated students with excellent time management skills, is to do the project during the UCSC Summer Session. Since you will need 6 credits to qualify for financial aid, a 2 credit independent study might be a good addition to your 5 credit class.

However, it can be difficult to find a sponsor for the summer because many professors have other time commitments. You are most likely to be successful in getting sponsorship for an independent project if you choose to do it during the regular academic year.
Funding Sources

- Ask the professor, your academic adviser, and other students for suggestions
- See “Funding Your Research” for your division
- Summer internships may pay for housing, travel, research expenses and/or a stipend
- Contact Financial Aid to see what you are eligible for
- Check your department and division webpages
- Many colleges have small funding grants, so check with your college adviser
Funding Sources- Pivot

- Database of external funding sources
- Free for UCSC students but you need to register

http://pivot.cos.com/
What Can I Do Now?

Frosh

- **Get good grades!**
- Go to professor’s office hours for help
  - Email for an appointment if you can’t go to scheduled hours
- Use Academic Support Programs
  - Learning Support Services Tutoring and MSI
  - Departmental tutoring
Academic Support Programs

Check with your academic advisor for department specific programs.

**General Academic Support**

**Career Center**– The Career Center is dedicated to providing comprehensive, quality career development and employment/internship programs and resources that prepare a diverse student/alumni community to successfully meet today's and tomorrow's challenges.

**Disability Resource Center**– The DRC's goal is to assist the UCSC campus with equal educational access for students with disabilities.

**Educational Opportunity Program**– EOP provides a variety of academic and personal support programs designed to improve the retention and academic success of first-generation, low-income, or educationally disadvantaged college students. EOP serves to enhance undergraduate experiences by helping students acquire the skills to prepare for graduate programs, professional school, and future leadership roles. The **Pre-Graduate Program** hosts workshops every quarter.

**Learning Support Services**– Peer guided group sessions called Modified Supplemental Instruction (MSI) are available for selected lower and upper division undergraduate courses. Content related tutoring is available for all classes that are not supported by MSI.

**Services for Transfer and Re-entry Students**– STARS provides the extra academic and personal support transfer, re-entry and readmitted students may need to benefit fully from their education at UCSC whether they are full- or part-time. STARS is here to assist students with their pre-admissions questions, transfer and graduation planning.

http://ugr.ue.ucsc.edu/node/93
What Can I Do Now?
Frosh

- Join a student group
- Use the Career Center
  - Advice for choosing a major
  - Videos on webpage
- Talk to your major and college advisers
- See the UR webpage for your division
What Can I Do Now?
Sophomores & Juniors

- Be persistent and assertive
- Network with friends, professors, TAs
- Go to department seminars
- Research summer programs in fall quarter
- Continue going to office hours
- Keep your grades high
What Can I Do Now?
Seniors & Super-Seniors

- Meet with potential advisers as soon as possible
- Some students stay to take a light academic load and volunteer to do research
- Look into senior thesis programs
- Consider a semester abroad and/or summer schools
What's Next?

Participating in undergraduate research is excellent preparation for graduate school or employment. Remember that your interests may evolve during and after college, and that preparation for one career will provide skills that you can use even if you end up pursuing other options later in your life.

Select one of the topics below:

- Graduate School
- Post-baccalaureate positions
- Non-profit or Industry Positions

If you are considering graduate school:

- Talk to your research mentor about options early
- Talk to your mentor and graduate students in the department about how the process works in your discipline. You might ask:
  - What schools are strongest in your field? The best researchers in your field may be at a school you haven't heard of.
  - Where does your mentor think it would be best for you to apply?
  - What schools have students in our lab?
  - What schools offer the best support for your research interests?
For More Information:

- Visit the UCSC Undergraduate Research Opportunities website, ugr.ucsc.edu
- Join the email listserve on the website
- Come to Drop-in Advising, Baskin 153B
  - Monday 3-5 PM
  - Wednesday 12-2 PM
  - Friday 10 AM-12 PM
Please fill out the evaluation and leave it up front.

Thanks!