Undergraduate research (UR) is an inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.

(Council on Undergraduate Research, www.cur.org)

Undergraduates do research in every division and department at UC Santa Cruz. Since UCSC is a research university, active participation in research should be an integral part of your education. For examples of UR in each division, see the student profiles at http://ugr.ucsc.edu/Profiles_list.

To get involved in UR, you need to be well prepared.

• 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.

• 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.UCSC.EDU

With links to:
• Academic Support: http://ugr.ucsc.edu/Academic_Support
• Frequently Asked Questions: http://ugr.ucsc.edu/FAQ
• STEM Diversity Programs: http://stemdiv.ucsc.edu/
• Undergraduate Research Opportunities Database: http://ugr.ue.ucsc.edu/database

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