

What is Undergraduate Research?

Undergraduate research is a way to explore topics that interest you by asking questions and following a method to arrive at a conclusion. Your work and findings can then be presented through a paper, poster presentation, conference, or even a publication.

What does Research Look Like?

Research can be conducted in any academic or career field, and methods in various fields may look different.



Fieldwork



Historical analysis



Interviews & focus groups



Lab work



Quantitative data analysis



Surveys & questionnaires

Where can I Find Research Opportunities?

Here are some on-campus resources to get you started:

BECKMAN INSTITUTE

Fosters interdisciplinary collaboration between traditional science and technology disciplines. beckman.illinois.edu (Search “undergraduate research opportunities”)

CLINE CENTER FOR ADVANCED SOCIAL RESEARCH

Provides students with practical experience in data science research to impact complex social problems. clinecenter.illinois.edu/get-involved/students

HUMANITIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Fosters interdisciplinary study in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. hri.illinois.edu

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Delivers a variety of programs and workshops to promote undergraduate participation in research across campus in all disciplines. undergradresearch.illinois.edu/index

INSTITUTE FOR GENOMIC BIOLOGY

Supports interdisciplinary research connecting health, technology, and the environment – where science meets society. www.igb.illinois.edu/index.php/acquainted/fellowship-opportunities

INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SCIENCES INSTITUTE

Offering community-based summer research projects in Champaign-Urbana. healthinstitute.illinois.edu/community-impact/community-academic-partnerships/community-academic-scholars

DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITES

Many academic departments have webpages dedicated to research opportunities for undergraduates. Be sure to check the website for your major.



Found an Interesting Research Opportunity – Now What?

Have you identified a research opportunity you are interested in? The next step is to reach out to the faculty member, lab or research team. Here are some tips to get you started.

STEP 1. *Update Your Resume.*

You will likely be asked to provide a resume. Be sure your document is up-to-date and ready to go. Need help? Visit a Peer Mentor at the Lisnek LAS Hub, or use review resume writing resources from the following campus resources:

- LAS Career Services: go.illinois.edu/LASCareerServices
- The Career Center: www.careercenter.illinois.edu/instructable/write-your-resume

STEP 2. *Send an Inquiry Email.*

If you do not see a current undergraduate research opportunity posted, you can send an inquiry email to the Professor, Lab Director, or Research Director. Here is an example email to follow:

Dear [Dr., Professor, etc... NAME],

My name is [your full name], and I am a [year of school] majoring in [major]. I am writing to ask about available undergraduate research positions [with you/in your *lab name*] during the [Fall/Spring/Summer] semester. I learned about your research through [TA, class, website...], and [something about their research that interested you] caught my eye. I'm very interested in [area of interest relating to research], and I would appreciate the opportunity to learn more about this topic and contribute to your research.

I have attached my resume to this email. Please contact me for any additional information or if you have any questions. Could we schedule a time at your convenience to discuss this opportunity further? Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
 [Full Name]
 [Signature]

Want to Learn More?

Visit a Peer Mentor in the Lisnek LAS Hub

- » First floor of Lincoln Hall, Quad-side, Behind the marble staircase
- » Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday | 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- » Fall and Spring semesters, while classes are in session

las.illinois.edu/resources/hub
lashub-peermentors@illinois.edu