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.

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](http://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](http://clinecenter.illinois.edu/get-involved/students)

**HUMANITIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
Fosters interdisciplinary study in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. [hri.illinois.edu](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.**

Your 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 – Thursday, 10:00am – 3:00 pm
- Fall and Spring semesters, while classes are in session

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