

Frequently Asked Questions - Undergraduate Research

How much time does undergraduate research take?

Most students report spending anywhere from 5-8 hours on research outside of the classroom. This can vary depending on the type of project and what might be happening at a given time.

How long does a research project last?

That depends on a number of factors, like funding and project completion; it also depends on your interests. Some students stay with the same mentor for multiple semesters working on evolving projects. Others prefer to switch mentors or try new projects after a semester or two.

Should I bring a resume when I meet with a potential mentor?

It never hurts to have something with you in writing that outlines your experiences and skills that could contribute to the research. Make sure it's updated and includes relevant information!

What will I do as a research assistant?

Once you've found a research assistant position, it's time to understand your role and learn about the expectations of your faculty mentor. Some questions to consider:

- ❖ Who will you be reporting to? What does communication/meeting with this person look like?
- ❖ What will your specific duties be? How might these change over time?
- ❖ Do you need to create a specific schedule? Are your hours flexible?
- ❖ What would be considered outstanding work?
- ❖ What additional training might you need?
- ❖ Is pay involved? If so, what needs to be completed for you to receive this pay? How often will you get paid? Will this pay impact your financial aid or scholarships?

Can I receive course credit?

To get course credit, you need to talk to your academic advisor. They can give you specific information regarding credits and your degree progress. Research course credit translates as 42 hours in a research space per 1 credit hour for that semester. For 3 credits, that translates to roughly 8 hours per week.

Can I get paid?

Some research assistantships are paid and some aren't - it depends on the type of funding a researcher has for their project(s). In some cases, undergraduate research is a volunteer experience. Often, the more experience a student has, the more likely they are to be paid. Don't be afraid to ask a potential mentor whether the assistantship is paid.

There are a few options for getting paid that aren't dependent on research funding:

- ❖ [Federal Work Study](#) (FWS)
- ❖ [OUR Paid Research Assistant](#) positions
- ❖ [Provost's Professional Experience Program](#) (PEP)
- ❖ [Engineer Your Experience Program](#) (for students in the College of Engineering)
- ❖ Contact your academic advisor or Director of Undergraduate Programs to see if other funding sources exist.