



The Office of Undergraduate Research

The Office of Undergraduate Research (O.U.R.) launched in January 2015 with a blueprint to institutionalize undergraduate research (UR) across all academic disciplines such that every University of Oklahoma (OU) undergraduate will have the opportunity to experience this high-impact educational practice during their tenure.

Toward this goal, the O.U.R. supports all campus constituents in their endeavors to include research and creative projects as part of learning and curriculum. O.U.R. programs include:

- **Course-based Research:** Initiatives to expand and enhance research projects in the classroom.
 - **Graduate Research Guides (GRG):** The O.U.R. invites proposals for implementing new or expanded course-based research. The grant funds a part time GA to coach undergraduate students or student teams in research projects embedded in courses.
 - **Course Attributes:** Designations in the course catalog for courses that include research methods for the discipline and research projects for students to learn course content.
 - **Research Skills modules:** O.U.R. is developing course modules that introduce and explain research at the post-secondary level. Other modules will provide a basic introduction to generalized research skills.
- **Individually-mentored Research:** Empowering students to explore their scholastic disciplines through research.
 - **Creativity Showcase:** Curiosity2Creativity.net is a website provided and maintained by the O.U.R. for students, faculty, and departments to showcase UR.
 - **Research Opportunities Database:** This web-delivered database provides students direct access to research opportunities on or off campus. OU faculty, staff, or community research partners may submit student research opportunities at uresearch.ou.edu/portal. If you have a small program, we can even provide an electronic application submission system.
 - **XXXX 3440 Mentored Research Experience:** 3440 is a variable credit (0-3), letter-graded course for faculty to use for work with individual or small groups of students. It replaces the use of 3990/4990 for students engaged in research that is not for honors credit. All students, even those volunteering or paid, should enroll in some course to transcript their experience.
 - **Undergraduate Research Mentoring Agreement (URMA):** This research-based tool is completed collaboratively to define the expectations for a student's research program or semester. Better educational, personal and professional development outcomes are available if multiple dimensions of expectations are clearly articulated.
 - **Mentored Research Fund (MRF):** A research grant offered by the O.U.R. for students and a travel fund is available to partially reimburse the cost of travel for students to present their research.

- **Items Supporting Both Types of UR:**
 - **Newsletters:** O.U.R. sends monthly newsletters to faculty and semi-monthly to students. Sign up for yours at <http://tinyurl.com/htecluc>.
 - **OU Undergraduate Research and Creativity Week and Summer Research Symposium:** campus-wide celebrations of undergraduate research pursued through courses or individually. The Spring UR&C Week is in the planning stages to launch April 2017. The inaugural summer symposium was held July 2016.
 - **Department Profiles:** Informing current & prospective students and administration of UR activities and engagement.
- **Other Faculty Resources:**
 - **Reporting:** We worked with the Provost's office to include undergraduate research as a teaching activity in the Faculty Activity System electronic annual reports.
 - **Tools:** We have tools available to support your work with individual students and assessment frameworks and tools that may be applied to course-based research.
 - **Guidance:** The O.U.R. provides one on one consultation for enriching UR in your courses or your own research program. We are working on white papers to provide background information about research-based best-practices for UR.
 - **Rewarding:** We offer the Nancy L. Mergler Faculty Mentor Award for Undergraduate Research annually.

Want to learn more?

- Check out our new website – <http://uresearch.ou.edu> AND follow us on Facebook (<fb.me/OURatOkU>) or Twitter (OURatOU)
- Make an appointment or email your questions – undergraduateresearch@ou.edu
- Or drop by the O.U.R. office on Wednesdays – 5PP, Room 3308 (in the CRPDE area of the VPR office)

What do we mean by Undergraduate Research?

Undergraduate Research (UR) is mentored intellectual engagement using established scholarly processes to make a meaningful contribution to a project, question, or problem, where the outcomes are presented or performed with review, critique or judgment, and both the process and product are based upon disciplinary standards. The work will be at least partially novel, but may result in a preliminary product, a partial solution, or additional questions for future investigation.