Undergraduate Research in the College of Science

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Students typically ask...

- Why should I join a research lab?
- When should I join a research lab?
- What are the prerequisites for joining a lab?
- How can I apply to do research?
- How should I contact a professor?
- What types of research can undergrads do?
- Should I stay in one lab, or move around?
- What resources are there to support undergrad research?
Why should I join a research lab?

- Community / network of peers
- Exposure to research
- Contribute to the creation of new knowledge
- Sets you apart from other students
- Letters of recommendation
When should I join a research lab?

- Anytime… (earlier is better)
- Don’t over-commit in your first year
- Early exposure increases retention (connection to science)
- Build confidence and skills in research
What are the prerequisites for joining a lab?

- There are no formal prerequisites
- This will vary between labs
- Starting positions don’t assume science skills
How can I apply to do research?

- Wage payroll
- Research credit (294/296, 494/496)
- FURP/WISER/MUER
- Research Opportunities for Undergraduates
How should I contact a professor?

- Be professional
- Explain why you want to do research (research the lab)
- Set up an appointment:
  - Approach your professors after class
  - Email
- Connect with undergrads / grads in lab
- Apply to job postings
What types of research can undergraduates do?

- Anything…!!
Should I stay in one lab, or move around?

- Benefits to both
  - Longer = more familiar with research = more independence
  - More labs = greater exposure to different research (independence still possible)
What resources are there to support undergrad research?

- Undergraduate Research Support funds (to faculty)
- Discovery Grants (summer research support – due Feb)
- Poster Exhibit (fall and spring)
- Conference Travel Support
- SCiRES (Science Research Distinction - thesis)