

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES

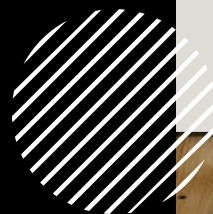
Facilitators

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Agenda



What is Research?

Undergraduate Research

Benefits of Research

Pathways to Research

Getting Started In Undergraduate Research

Resources



WHAT IS RESEARCH?

- Research is a systematic and organized process of investigation that aims to discover new knowledge, expand existing knowledge, or resolve a specific problem. It involves the collection, analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of information in order to answer research questions or test hypotheses.
- Research can be conducted in various fields, such as science, social sciences, humanities, technology, art, dance, and theater

What does Research Look Like?



Research can take many forms depending on the field, goals, and methods employed, but generally, it follows a systematic process of inquiry to generate new knowledge or deepen our understanding of a particular subject.



A structured methodology may include identifying a research topic, formulating research questions or hypotheses, designing a study or experiment, collecting and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions based on the findings.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

- Undergraduate research refers to the involvement of undergraduate (college or university) students in academic research projects, typically under the guidance and supervision of faculty members or researchers.
- It provides students with an opportunity to actively participate in the process of inquiry and discovery within their field of study.

BENEFITS OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

- Academic and Intellectual Growth
- Hands-on Application of Knowledge
- Skill Development
- Mentorship and Networking
- Resume and Graduate School Applications
- Personal Growth and Confidence
- Contribution to Knowledge and Society
- Exploration of Career Paths

Research experience consistently emerges as a top criterion for admission into graduate school and for employment in competitive positions. But gaining research experience is largely dependent on your own initiative. That can prove intimidating, so in this article I highlight the key steps in the process of obtaining research experience.

Identifying Your Interest



Determine the field or area of research that aligns with your academic and career goals.

Reflect on your coursework, passions, and long-term aspirations to identify subjects or topics that intrigue you.

Look for faculty members or research groups at your university who are involved in research related to your interests. Review their published work, ongoing projects, and areas of expertise.

Mentorship:



Mentors guide students in developing critical research skills, including experimental design, data analysis, literature review, and presentation skills. These skills are not only valuable for research but also transferable to various career paths.



Mentors can provide one-on-one guidance tailored to each student's needs and goals.



Mentors often have established networks in their field, and they can introduce students to other researchers, conferences, and opportunities for collaboration. These connections can be invaluable.

Contacting Faculty

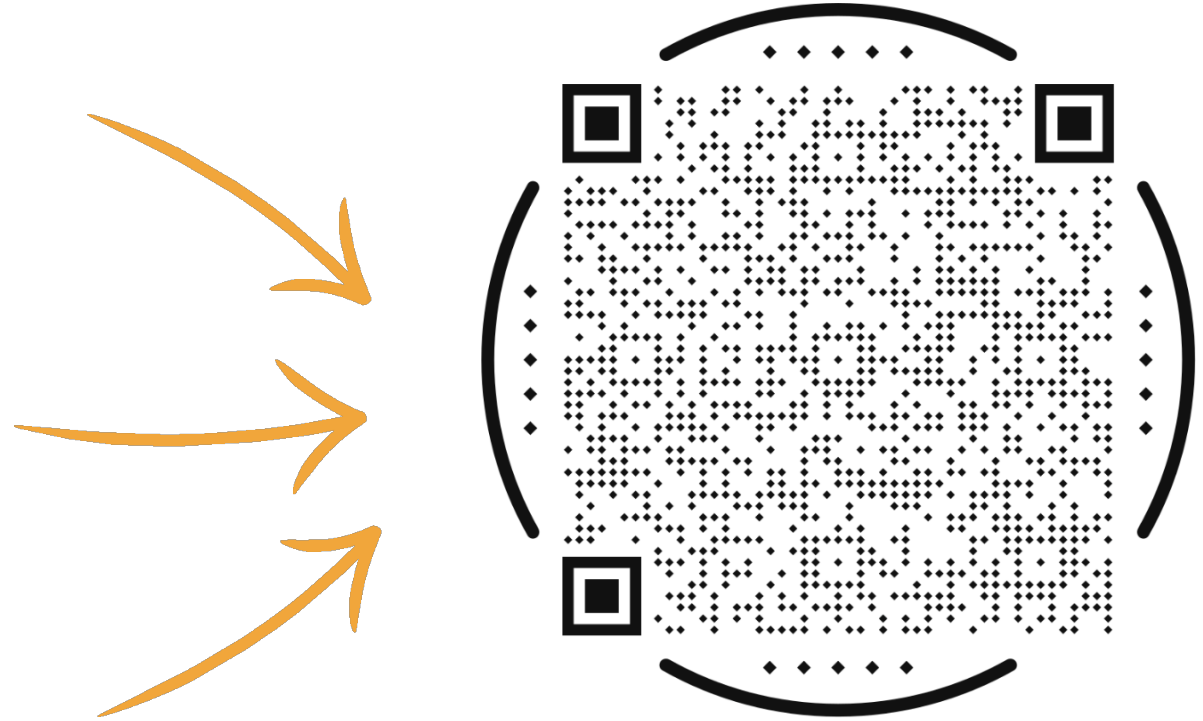
If you are contacting faculty directly, email them a cover letter and CV. Your cover letter will comprise the body of your email and should clearly & concisely:

- Introduce yourself
- Explain your interest and enthusiasm in their research
- Identify your goals and how working with them will help you progress toward those goals
- Request an interview to discuss further a potential research opportunity (include your general availability and potential start date)
- Include your contact information (email & phone)

If you don't hear back from a specific faculty you emailed or a research opportunity you applied to, send a polite follow-up email 1-2 weeks after your initial email. You should not drop into a faculty's lab or office unannounced.

Finding a Research Mentor Guide

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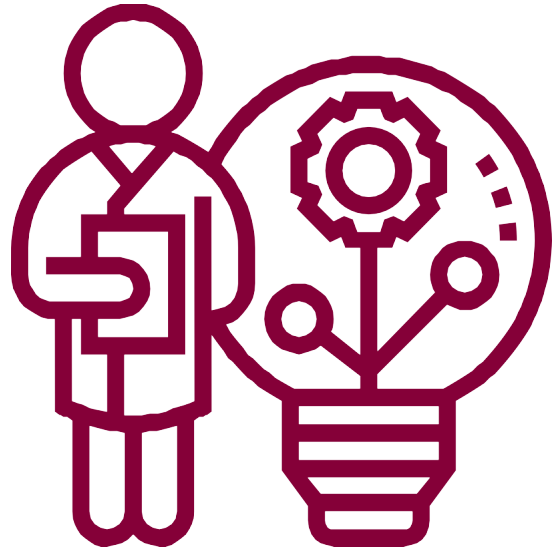
Path to Undergraduate Research



PLANNING AND FUNDING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT DH

- Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR)
<https://www.csudh.edu/gsr/undergraduate-research/>
- McNair Scholars program
<https://www.csudh.edu/mcnair/>
- Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)
<https://www.csudh.edu/mellon-mays/>
- Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral program
<https://www.csudh.edu/academics/pre-doctoral-programs/predoc/>
<https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/faculty-staff/predoc/SallyCasanovaScholars>

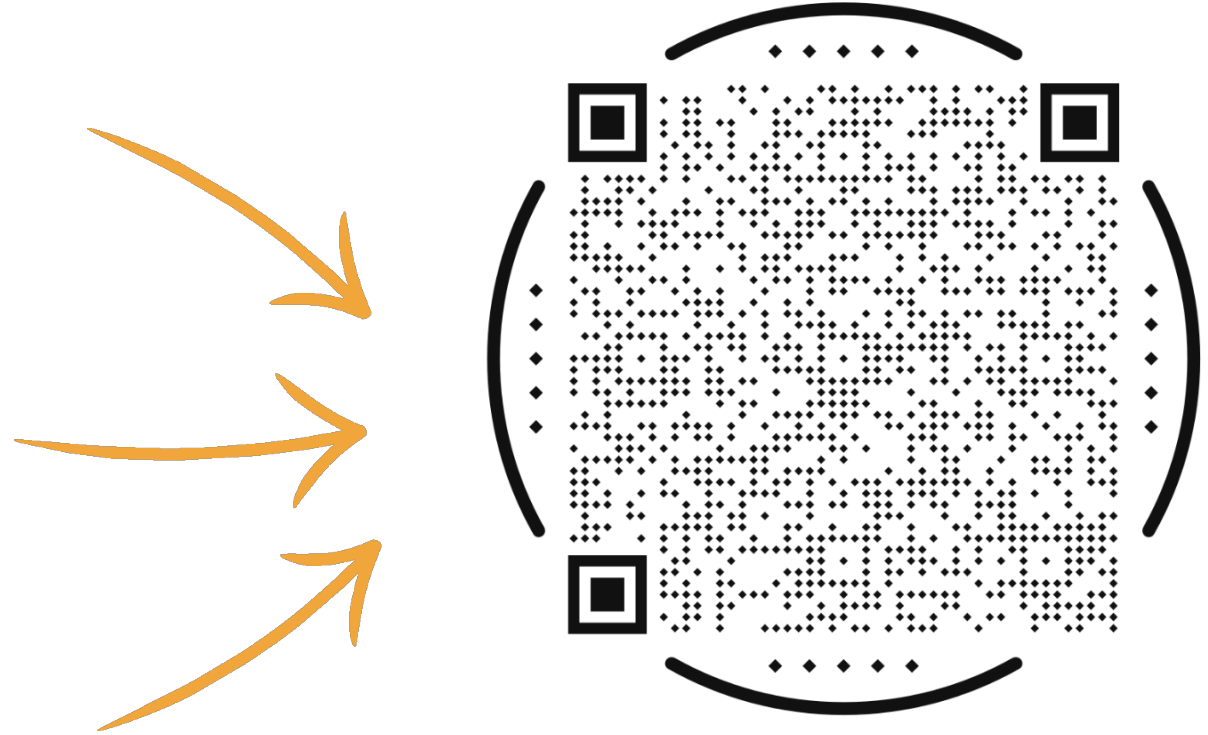
Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates:



- Opportunity to conduct a research project in various fields
- Designed to expose undergraduates to research
- Graduate Program Exposure
- Work closely with faculty and other researchers
- 8 – 10 weeks at a host university during the winter or summer term (Virtual or Online).
- Paid: Travel, Housing & Food, + stipend

Summer Research Programs Guide

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PRESENTING YOUR RESEARCH

- CSUDH Student Research Day (SRD)
- Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR)
- Work with your department to plan performances, exhibits, or readings of your research.



Final Tips on Getting Started

- Talk to Professors after class.
- Look for Off-Campus Opportunities
 - Internships
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Off-Campus Research Opportunities
- Take your Coursework seriously!
- Look for Questions rather than subjects.
- Research takes time...it is not bound to semester timeframes.

