Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

College of Engineering Welcome Week

Research 101: CURO @ UGA
Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities (CURO)

Agenda

• Why undergraduate research?
• CURO’s role
• CURO eligibility
• CURO coursework
• CURO funding
• CURO Symposium
• CURO Workshops
• How to get involved in undergraduate research

College of Engineering Welcome Week

Research 101: CURO @ UGA
Excellence at UGA

Integrating

- Teaching
- Research
- Public Service
- Global Engagement

$6.3 BILLION UGA Impact on the State of Georgia

$453 MILLION R&D Expenditures in FY 2018

#1 for New Products Among U.S. Universities

775+ Products Introduced to Marketplace

TOP 10 for Deal Flow Among U.S. Universities

50 Products Reached the Market in FY 2018

175+ Companies Launched Based on UGA Research

$128 MILLION Annual Economic Impact from Jobs Created

TOP 20 for Active Startups Among U.S. Public Universities
Excellence at UGA

Integrating

• Teaching
• Research
• Public Service
• Global Engagement

Experiential Learning Opportunities for Students

• Undergraduate Research
Why Undergraduate Research?
Why Undergraduate Research?

Participating in undergraduate research helps you with the following:

• Exploring in experiential learning opportunities
• Applying what you learn in the classroom and expanding your learning
• Understanding your discipline and profession
• Enhancing your analytical breadth and depth
• Building your resumé
• Networking with faculty, peers, graduate students, professionals in your field
• Enhancing your interpersonal skills and work in groups
• Perfecting your oral communication skills, including giving presentations, talking to people individually, or in groups of any size
• Improving your writing, reading, summarizing, and creating
• Building a relationship with your mentor
• Figuring out if research is for you
CURO’s Role

CURO facilitates and supports student learning through faculty-mentored research in any discipline.
CURO Eligibility

- All undergraduate students
- All disciplines
CURO Coursework

- Research courses (A-F)
- Research Thesis (AF)
- Graduation distinction
CURO Funding

- CURO Honors Scholarship ($3,000)
- CURO Research Assistantship ($1,000)
- CURO Summer Fellowship ($3,000)
- Conference Participation Grant (up to $1,500)
CURO Symposium

• Every spring
• Present your work
• Experience breadth and depth of research at UGA
CURO Workshops

• Support undergraduate researchers and mentors
Getting involved in undergraduate research

Steps:
1 and 2  Student
3 and 4  Student + Faculty Mentor
5.       Student + Faculty Mentor + CURO
Getting Started with CURO: Identifying faculty

• Attend a CURO information session
• Talk to students and faculty (courses)
• Research opportunities at curo.uga.edu
• CURO Symposium Resources (Book of Abstracts, attend Symposium)
• Browse department websites institutes, working groups, centers, etc.
  • Example: Integrated Life Sciences (ils.uga.edu)
  • Office of Research (research.uga.edu/centers-institutes/, research.uga.edu/research-awards)
  • UGA publications: UGA Research Magazine- (ugaresearch.uga.edu), Columns (news.uga.edu)
• Pay attention to faculty webpages— Discipline, topics, methodologies, publications (look at their work), consider size and activity of the lab, inquire about mentor-mentee relationships (ask other students)
Getting started with CURO: Contacting a potential mentor

What is important for the potential mentor?

Why do you want to do research with that faculty mentor?
• Explain why. Show you have interest and demonstrate your interest – do your homework and demonstrate you have done your homework

The student
• Demonstrate your value – decide what is your value and show it (many students also add a resume)

The potential for research results
• Demonstrate your commitment (and length of potential commitment)
Getting started with CURO: The first impression

Email

Use your UGAmail email account
Write an easily understandable subject line (i.e. "CURO mentorship meeting", etc.)

Include a professional salutation (i.e. “Professor or Dr.________”)  
Clearly identify:
• your name  
• your class year  
• why you are writing  
• your desire to meet with the mentor to discuss his/her research  
• a week’s worth of specific days and times when you can meet with the faculty member (be sure to check the faculty member’s posted office hours first)

Remember the goal of contacting any potential mentor is to schedule an appointment to meet (either in person or via zoom)

Be patient. Give faculty time to respond but be prepared to send a second (or third) email, and follow up as necessary.
Getting involved in undergraduate research

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