

How Do I Get Involved with Research, Scholarship, or Creative Work?

Prepare

- ✚ What areas of study interest you? Learn something about current activities in your field. Listen in class, ask faculty members and graduate students about current research, read textbook or journal articles.
- ✚ Determine how much time each week, and when, you can give to research work. Can you offer more time during the summer or in January? For the sake of your grades, is it better for you to conduct research in the summer rather than during the academic year?

Identify Opportunities/Potential Mentors

- ✚ Look at the department web pages. In some departments faculty post the projects for which they need undergraduate assistants. Identify projects you would like to work on or faculty you would like to work with, even if undergraduate research positions are not specifically mentioned.
- ✚ Speak with your academic advisor and your current professors.
- ✚ Talk with your peers or teaching assistants about which faculty members are good mentors.
- ✚ Find out who mentored earlier undergraduate researchers in your area by reading research abstracts linked from ur.umbc.edu/urcad/archive/
- ✚ Look beyond the UMBC campus. Artists throughout the area may accept apprentices. Researchers at other area institutions often need students. For example, look at the faculty web pages at University of Maryland, Baltimore medical, dental, nursing and pharmacy schools.
- ✚ For other science and non-science research leads, including summer opportunities, go to ur.umbc.edu/summer-research/

Reach out

- ✚ Identify three to five potential mentors. Approach the faculty members after class or during office hours to request an appointment to discuss research.
 - ✚ Be prepared to e-mail or bring in person your current transcript (unofficial) and a resume. Visit the Career Center for help in creating a strong resume.
 - ✚ You may ask to join the faculty member's ongoing work as an assistant, or request mentoring in a creative or research project of your own design. If you have a specific project in mind, a mentor can help you fine tune your plans and get started.
 - ✚ Potential mentors may be approached at any time of year, but typically two to three months in advance of the time you would like to begin working.
 - ✚ If you can offer large blocks of time during summer or winter break, this can be a good way to get started with an on-campus research or scholarly project. You can then receive necessary training in a short time and be ready to work more independently when classes start again.
 - ✚ Many summer research application deadlines are in February. Look at the offerings through the fall. A successful application process usually starts in November.
- ur.umbc.edu/summer-research/

Once you start a research project

- ✚ Take the work seriously and make it a priority in your schedule. Be reliable.
- ✚ Discuss with your mentor whether academic credit is appropriate for your work.
- ✚ Begin to work on your proposal for an Undergraduate Research Award. More information about this award can be found at ur.umbc.edu/ura/
- ✚ If you are already involved with research, plan to participate in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD) on fourth Wednesday in April, see ur.umbc.edu/urcad/
- ✚ Submit your research results for publication in the *UMBC Review* ur.umbc.edu/umbc-review

For more assistance

Janet McGlynn, mcglynn@umbc.edu, 5-5754

Undergraduate Research at UMBC

Key Information, Dates, and Contacts

[Undergraduate Research Awards \(URA\)](http://ur.umbc.edu/ura/) ur.umbc.edu/ura/

These **grants of up to \$1,500** are awarded to students for research at UMBC with a faculty mentor. The proposal (two pages only) deadline is late February for funding during the next academic year. A quality proposal usually involves several weeks of preparation with a mentor.

[Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day \(URCAD\)](http://ur.umbc.edu/urcad/) ur.umbc.edu/urcad/

This on-campus conference features more than 200 current students discussing and/or displaying research, scholarship, and creative work they conducted this year. **Students working on a thesis, independent study project, capstone project, or other research or independent creative work can present their work.** Applications (200 words) are accepted online during February. The **URCAD event will be Wednesday, April 27, 2016**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the University Center, Engineering Building and Performing Arts and Humanities Building.

[UMBC Review: Journal of Undergraduate Research](http://ur.umbc.edu/umbc-review) ur.umbc.edu/umbc-review

Published annually, this journal features academic papers written by UMBC undergraduates.

Submissions are due in early September each year. Contact: umbcreview@umbc.edu

[Travel Funding](http://ur.umbc.edu/travel/)

ur.umbc.edu/travel/

Students who are invited to present their own work at a conference or festival may apply for travel funding.

[Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship \(SURF\)](http://ur.umbc.edu/summer-research/nist)

SURF at National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD and Boulder, CO ur.umbc.edu/summer-research/nist. Applications are due February 1 each year. If you would like to apply, notify Devon Fick at dfick1@umbc.edu

[Research Experiences for Undergraduates \(REU\)](http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.jsp) via National Science Foundation

www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.jsp

REU offers hundreds of 10-week summer research opportunities in the sciences at universities and laboratories all over the country. Applications are typically due January to March.

[Other Summer Opportunities](http://ur.umbc.edu/summer-research/)

ur.umbc.edu/summer-research/

[Research Information by Department](http://ur.umbc.edu/home/mymajor/) ur.umbc.edu/home/mymajor/

[Further information about undergraduate research \(ur\)](http://ur.umbc.edu) and applications can be found at ur.umbc.edu


[For more information and assistance with any of these opportunities](#)

Janet McGlynn, mcglynn@umbc.edu, 410 - 455 - 5754

Office of Undergraduate Education

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