Facilitator: 
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Director, Office of Undergraduate Research
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OUR Team

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Undergraduate Leaders
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Agenda

• Overview of OUR
• Overview of UROP
• UROP mentor and mentee expectations
• Supporting mentoring relationships across difference
• Opportunities to collaborate with the office – what faculty should know
• Discussion
From admission to graduation ... provide every student with an exceptional educational experience that empowers them to lead transformational lives wherever their educational and professional futures take them.
Office of Undergraduate Research

Mission

Promote undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and creative works in all disciplines throughout the University of Utah campus. In recognition that excellence requires diversity, we pursue this mission through equitable programming that promotes diverse representation and social justice.
OUR Commitment: All Faculty, Staff & Students

Foster student success through research.

Generate and share knowledge, discoveries, and innovations through undergraduate research collaborations with faculty.

Promote education through fostering mentoring relationships, experiential learning and transformative experiences through research opportunities.
Undergraduate Research as a Public Good

- Solving societal problems
- Students and faculty as ambassadors of the institutions
Why Undergraduate Research Matters

Promotes skill-building

- Utilizing previous research & appropriate research methods
- Articulating research questions like a scientist
- Presentations & public-speaking

Promotes retention and graduation for diverse students

Impacts career and post-graduation decisions (i.e., graduate studies)
Role of research mentoring in supporting students with:

• Thinking like a researcher
• Metacognition
• Creating belonging in a research/academic community
• Scaffolded sequence of experiences to support the research process
• Students are a central part of the research enterprise
## Diversity in Undergraduate Research By College

**98 Summer 2023 UROPS awarded**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transform</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dentistry</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
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<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>CMES</td>
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<td>Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSBS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diversity in Undergraduate Research

Gender

- UROP Since 2015: Female 52%
- UROP in 2022: Female 55%
- All OUR Participants Since 2015: Female 53%
Diversity in Undergraduate Research

Race

- UROP Since 2015: BIPOC 30%
- UROP in 2022: BIPOC 37%
- All OUR since 2015: 32%
Diversity in Undergraduate Research

Transfer

Since 2015, 25% are transfers from SLCC and 21% identify as First Gen.
GPA, Graduation & Beyond Assumptions

- OUR students GPA, overall above 3.5, however still zig-zagging. Students generally do poorer in the fall semester. What is going on?
- Approximately 60% of OUR students are not honors students.
• Diversity varies by field; the work to diversify is an ongoing project.
  • All racial groups except for Asian are under-indexing. But this is not even across all colleges.
  • Race is not a fixed category
  • Race matters because we cannot unsee race even if we believe it does not matter – it matters.
  • Gender data and analytics binary (students are fluid in their gender)

• Undergraduate research at the University of Utah can only be as diverse as the students our faculty mentor

• Undergraduate research labs can advance diversity and inclusion goals by prioritizing the admission and mentoring of underrepresented students.
Diversity in Undergraduate Research Message

• Faculty are encouraged to consider the kind of processes that they need to mentor across difference
  • Attend EDI events
  • Partner with schools whose expertise is in diversity and inclusion
  • Examine how "difference" matters in your own field – disciplinary, subjects, methodologies, and communities.
  • Reflect on how diverse are the people you are citing? How diverse are your research teams? Then take meaningful steps to diversify your literature/teams. Example: cite more women/#citeblackwomen, or review selection process and consider steps creating barriers.
Supporting mentees across difference

- The University of Utah is a Predominantly White Institution. Ever had an injury? It is not very accessible.
- Racial minority and Native students: psychological toll of inhospitable campus environments and negative campus interactions.
- Interactions happen in multiple spaces: peers, staff, faculty, and leadership

Faculty are important ambassadors of the institution and may be the first connection a student has to the U.
Consider Strategies to Foster Access

- Assume your student is starting with zero – how do you get them there? Who else needs to support you/your team?
- Assume terms you use every day are new to your student. Rephrase after using a word, what it means using everyday language.
- Consider typing out text when working with students where English is not the preferred language.
- Rethink a culture of awarding the awarded.
- Share with your student your messy first drafts, challenges, and strategies of success.
Student wellness

• During the 2020–2021 school year, more than 60% of college students met the criteria for at least one mental health problem - https://www.apa.org/monitor/2022/10/mental-health-campus-care

• Student researchers face a myriad of pressures and stress.
  • Personal (love/life/family)
  • Housing (insecurity/instability/changes)
  • Financial concerns
  • Stress or pressure about future, courses, job prospects
Accessibility & Undergraduate Research

Resources:

• Mental Health: https://studentaffairs.utah.edu/mentalhealth/
• Faculty are mandated reporters: https://sexualassault.utah.edu/reporting/title-ix-on-campus-reporting/
• Case management support with the Dean of Students https://deanofstudents.utah.edu/about_us/staff.php
• Student Success Coaches: https://ssc.utah.edu/
• Disability Access and Accommodation are a resource for all of us – your students, and you https://oeo.utah.edu/how-can-we-help/disability-access.php
Signs to consider, but not all of the signs with research mentees

• Not meeting deadlines
• Missing meetings
• Miscommunication
• Work completed does not meet expectations similar to other students at this stage of academics
• Student disclosures of "stress", difficulties sleeping, eating, chronic medical realities
Warm connections to resources matter – Build Communities

- EDI Centers [https://diversity.utah.edu/](https://diversity.utah.edu/)
- Women’s Resource Center [https://womenscenter.utah.edu/](https://womenscenter.utah.edu/)
- Office of First Gen [https://firstgen.utah.edu/](https://firstgen.utah.edu/)
- LGBT Resource Center [https://lgbt.utah.edu/](https://lgbt.utah.edu/)
Chat or Verbalize: What is your philosophy for mentoring?

• Example: I mentor any student who reaches out to me, with the belief that all students have the capacity to learn.
Overview of UROP

Scholar resources: https://our.utah.edu/research-scholarship-opportunities/current-scholar-resources/
UROP Overview https://our.utah.edu/urop
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

- $1,200 taxable stipend for 120 hours of work during one semester.
- Work research with a faculty mentor

Deadlines
- Fall 2023: Friday, June 30, 2023
- Spring 2024: Friday, October 27, 2023

https://our.utah.edu/urop/
Mentor Expectations

The mentors of awarded UROP Scholars are expected to:

- **Support the student** in preparing the UROP proposal. The proposal must be written by the student.

- **Mentor the student** in conducting the proposed research. Mentors are asked to detail at least three specific mentoring activities or strategies for the semester in the Faculty Mentor reference.

- **Ensure that the student is appropriately certified** as needed for Human Subject Research, Animal Research, Laboratory and other Environmental Health, HIPAA, etc.

- **Support and reinforce OUR policies** with respect to the UROP award, including deadlines, the requirement that students present their work at the URS, and the end-of-semester final report.

- **Acknowledge support** from the University of Utah Office of Undergraduate Research in the dissemination of the research.
  
  We suggest the following: "This work was supported by funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program at the University of Utah awarded to [student's name]." Please [download and use our logo](https://our.utah.edu/research-scholarship-opportunities/urop/).

- **Devise a schedule with the UROP student** to ensure they contribute 120 hours of research or creative work to the UROP Project. This schedule will be in writing and signed by both the UROP Mentor and the student.

- **Review the bi-monthly emails** from the OUR requesting a response in the event that the student is not making sufficient progress per the agreed-upon schedule.

- **Serve as a reviewer** for the OUR and/or moderate at the [Undergraduate Research Symposium](https://our.utah.edu/research-scholarship-opportunities/urop/) as needed.

- **Complete Mentor Reference. Be prepared to respond to:**
  
  How long and in what capacity have you known this student? What evidence suggests that the student is capable of successfully completing...
UROP Mentees received information from OUR staff:

• Pay (pay schedule, stipend, 2FA, EIPAA, schedule documentation)

• Withdrawal process, working with mentors, receiving support from OUR staff on logistics and connection to resources, and requirements)
OUR offers educational events on topics of interest to undergraduate student researchers and their faculty mentors.

Attend TWO Education Series events. One live event and one on-demand.

Program Tracks (searchable! Teachable! Repostable!):

- Research Basics & Skill-building
- Social Justice & Ethics in Research
- Research Collaboration & Communication
- Careers & Research

https://our.utah.edu/ures/
Undergraduate Research Symposia

Spring, Summer & Fall
• welcomes posters, talks, performances, and art installations.

Deadlines:
• Summer Symposium, August 3 (Deadline July 24)
• Fall Virtual Symposium, Dec. 1 (Deadline November 26)

Review your student poster: Is it organized? Are you acknowledged/co-author? Is OUR and other funding sources properly acknowledged?

*All UROP scholars are required to present at a Symposium before they graduate

https://our.utah.edu/urs
Final Report

Reflects on both the research experience and participation in UROP

Link to the Final Report is always available online

Due by the last day of class.
More Opportunities...
Summer Program for Undergraduate Research

Nationally competitive summer opportunity
https://our.utah.edu/spur/

• $5,000 stipend as well as on-campus housing and UCard benefits

Information for the Summer 2024 SPUR will be announced in late Summer/early Fall 2023.

Faculty deadline: early October 2023
Scholarships

https://our.utah.edu/scholarships

- **Early Exploration Scholarship**: Students in the first 60 credits.
- **Dee Foundation**: Student research contributes to the well-being of northern Utah residents.
- **Francis Family**: Students majoring in the arts, social sciences, humanities or interdisciplinary fields.
- **Parent Fund**: Students who have completed 2 semesters of UROP or seniors who have applied for spring graduation.
Students can apply for research grants to help support their work. Applicants must be working with a faculty mentor.

**Travel Grants:** $500.
For future conference registration, airfare, lodging, mileage

**Small Grants:** $500
For research supplies, special training fees, other costs

**Deadlines:**
Applications considered on a monthly basis.
[https://our.utah.edu/for-students/travel-small-grants/](https://our.utah.edu/for-students/travel-small-grants/)
Monson Prize

An annual prize is awarded to an undergraduate who writes an outstanding paper on the subject of social change (5-20 page essay).

https://our.utah.edu/for-students/monson-prize/

Deadline: Early March

In honor of Charles H. Monson, a distinguished alumni and long-time member of the U of U Philosophy Department.
OUR Research Opportunity Database

https://our.utah.edu/find-a-research-opportunity/

Check out some dynamic research opportunities with faculty at the University of Utah. Opportunities may be paid, volunteer, for a senior/honors thesis, or for independent study credit or course credit.

If you are faculty and would like to post an opportunity, visit this link.

View By College

- Architecture & Planning
- Business
- Cultural & Social Transformation
- Dentistry
- Education
- Engineering
- Fine Arts
- Health
- Honors
- Humanities
- Law
- Medicine
- Mines & Earth Sciences
- Nursing

Testing the sensitivity of TDR2 secondary task measurement on working memory load

Education

Educational Psychology

The purpose of the study is to examine the effectiveness of a measurement on mental effort

SPUR 2023: Hospital room design and evaluation for elderly residents

Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

**This project is a part of the Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR), which provides

SPUR 2023: Investigating the molecular mechanisms of mitochondrial-derived compartment formation

Medicine

Biochemistry

**This project is a part of the Summer Program for
Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation Checklist

- at least 2 semesters of undergraduate research
- presented at an OUR Undergraduate Research Symposium
- submitted to RANGE: Undergraduate Research Journal

Shows up in their transcript
https://our.utah.edu/urs
RANGE: Undergraduate Research Journal

https://our.utah.edu/range

• Open to any undergraduate student who has done research at the U.
• Diverse content.
• Wider visibility of undergraduate research.
• Indexed and searchable.
• First issue: 2,126 unique visitors over a 4-month period.
• Requirement for the Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation.*
IRB Lab

https://our.utah.edu/irb-lab

A monthly open work space for students to receive peer-mentoring and staff support when applying for Institutional Review Board approval.

Wednesday 5/17, 2:00-3:30PM
Wednesday 5/31, 2:00-3:30PM
Wednesday 6/14, 2:00-3:30PM
Wednesday 6/28, 2:00-3:30PM
Wednesday 7/26, 2:00-3:30PM

Held in person: Marriott Library 2130N (Hoopes Room)
Funding Fridays

https://our.utah.edu/funding-fridays/

A bi-weekly workshop for undergraduate researchers applying for OUR funding (UROP, SPUR, Travel & Small Grants and other opportunities. This is a drop-in work space for students to get information about applying for opportunities.

Every Friday during Summer Semester
2:00-3:00PM via Zoom
Register to Attend
About OUR

The mission of the University of Utah Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) is to facilitate and promote undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and creative works in all disciplines throughout the University of Utah campus through equitable programming, diverse representation, and social justice.
OUR Opportunities for you
Faculty Affiliates

About Faculty Affiliates:
https://our.utah.edu/faculty-affiliates/

How students find you:
https://our.utah.edu/faculty-mentors/

Update your page
https://ugs.formstack.com/forms/our_faculty_affiliate
Faculty and Student Collaborations

• Publish with students in *Range: Undergraduate Research Journal.*
  • Clarify expectations
  • Review their submission before it is submitted.

• Tell us about other publication success! [https://our.utah.edu/awards-recognition/student-accomplishments/](https://our.utah.edu/awards-recognition/student-accomplishments/)

• Include students in your FAR (faculty profile) when publishing or co-presenting.
OUR resources for Faculty & teaching

• Invite OUR to present to your class: https://our.utah.edu/about-us/request-a-class-presentation/

• Embed / assign video content from OUR Education Series (our.utah.edu/ures)
  • Education series – now searchable

• Organizing an undergraduate research event? Want a sponsor? Need to rent poster boards? Want support promoting it? Contact Dr. Fukushima about the varying levels of sponsorship.
OUR resources for Faculty Grants

- Request a letter of support from Dr. Fukushima
- Partner, if appropriate, with the OUR on a grant (example, NSF and LSAMP)
- Have funds and want to recruit students to work on your research beyond UROP, SPUR, Travel & Small Grants? Post an opportunity. https://our.utah.edu/find-a-research-opportunity/
Fostering a thriving research culture

• List mentees in your CV under teaching— they are acknowledged as receiving an award on the OUR website.

• Tell us about your student success: Collaborations, graduate school, etc. If you want us to share on social media – say so! And how to tag.
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Mentor Awardees.

• This is in collaboration with deans and college partners. The criteria for the Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Mentor Award are:

  • Record of sustained commitment to undergraduate research mentoring
  • Active participation in research-related activities on campus
  • Positive contributions to the research and teaching culture of the Department, College, and University
  • Letters from the Dean. Please connect with your chair.
  • Award Ceremony: April 1, 2024 at 10:30AM.

https://our.utah.edu/awards
Updates from the Office

We are moving forward with steps to do an evaluation of undergraduate research at the University of Utah. Interested in learning more? Want to be involved? Contact Dr. Fukushima a.fukushima@utah.edu

Launching Early Explorations Scholars program in the fall. Applications this summer. How can you connect/support?

Join the mentor panel, present at the education series, or schedule to have a tour of your research facility.

https://ugs.formstack.com/forms/faculty_collaboration_form
Hours of operation
8:00am - 5:00pm, Monday – Friday
Sill 005

Virtual & Remote connection
our.utah.edu
our@utah.edu
(801) 581-8070

Stay up-to-date about OUR
Faculty, Staff & Graduate Students ourfacultystaff@lists.utah.edu

Undergraduate researchers ourstudents@lists.utah.edu