Early Exploration Scholars Orientation

Student Orientation
Spring 2024
Jennifer Santiago

Academic Program Coordinator, OUR

Facilitator
OUR Team

• Annie Isabel Fukushima, Ph.D.,
  Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies
  Director, OUR

• Cindy Greaves, Associate Director

• Shelly Parker, Events Manager

• Angie Leiva, Academic Program Coordinator

• Jennifer Santiago, Academic Program Coordinator

Undergraduate Leaders

• Anna Gilstrap

• Ali Napper

• Sonia Osuna

• Ava Peitz

• Kishan Thambu
Agenda

• Welcome Remarks from Dr. Annie Isabel Fukushima
• Early Exploration Scholars Requirements
• OUR Opportunities
Overview of OUR and undergrad research
Mission

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.

Undergraduate Studies
Mission

Promote undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and creative works in all disciplines throughout the University of Utah campus.

Office of Undergraduate Research
Since 1987
OUR’s commitment

• 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.
Research as a Public Good

• Solving societal problems

• Students and faculty as ambassadors of the institutions
Undergraduate Research Matters

• Promotes retention and graduation for diverse students
• Impacts career and post-graduation decisions (i.e., graduate studies)
• Develop skills
GPA

• OUR students GPA, overall, above 3.65. Students generally do poorer in the fall semester. And oftentimes improve in the spring semester.

• Approximately 62% UROP scholars graduate in 4 years; 91% in 6 years.

• Approximately 60% of OUR students are not honors students.
Overview of the Early Exploration Scholars Program

https://our.utah.edu/research-scholarship-opportunities/early-exploration-scholars-program/
Early Exploration Scholars
Requirements – Award

- Scholarships have been awarded and disbursed into your tuition accounts.
  - Please allow time for the scholarship office to process your award.
- If you have questions, you can contact me via email at jennifer.santiago@utah.edu.
- If you have specific questions regarding the scholarship, please contact the Scholarship Office.
Early Exploration Scholars Requirements – Pre-Survey

- [https://utahsa.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6KbhaGAyPLp36g6](https://utahsa.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6KbhaGAyPLp36g6)

- Deadline to submit is **January 23, 2024, by 11:59pm.**
Early Exploration Scholars Requirements – Attend 2 URES

• Attend an orientation at the start of the semester.

• Attend a minimum of 2 undergraduate research education series (URES) events

• Mentor Panel: February 6, 2024, 12:30-1:30pm

• Student Panel: February 21, 2024, 3pm-4pm

https://our.utah.edu/ures/
Undergraduate Research Education Series (URES)

The Office of Undergraduate Research offers educational events on topics of interest to undergraduate student researchers and their faculty mentors. These events are open to all and are designed specifically with undergraduate students in mind.

The events are categorized by tracks to help students identify which events would be most helpful to them.

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

The OUR Education Series is a combination of live in-person and virtual events. Recorded sessions are also available to view on demand. In person events will be held in SLH 120 (virtual attendance will also be available). Full schedule available below.

**Current UROP students are required to attend TWO events, AT LEAST ONE MUST BE attended live on Zoom or in-person.**

Attendance for all events are tracked through the completion of the

URES EVALUATION FORM
Early Exploration Scholars Requirements – Research Tours

• Attend at least 1 research tour.
• Students are required to attend ONE research tour
• All tours are scheduled and can be found on the Early Exploration Scholars page: https://our.utah.edu/early-exploration
• Faculty lab tour and the research they are conducting in the lab.
• Also find tours on the OUR calendar https://our.utah.edu/newsletters/events-calendar/
Meet a prospective mentor

• Meet a prospective faculty mentor by April 15, 2024

• How students find faculty – Faculty database: https://our.utah.edu/faculty-mentors/

• Never met a professor about research? https://our.utah.edu/researchadvising/how-to-find-a-mentor/
Meet a prospective mentor

Emailing a professor

This is just a suggestion/rough guideline. Please write your own letter.

Dear Dr. ________,

Intro: My name is ________, I am an undergraduate majoring in (or expecting to major in) ________. I am interested in participating in research, especially your research concerning ________. I’m interested in it because ________. And I really think it would benefit my studies/career in ________ this way ________. I’d love to take part in your lab because ________.

Relevant Experience/Information:

Mention applicable courses taken, lab experience, assistantships, leadership experience, or past job experience that would pertain to working with this faculty. It might be helpful to attach a resume to your email, in case the professor wants to look at that information. It also helps to mention what kind of time commitment you can make to the research with this professor. For instance, “I am willing to volunteer hours in the lab and am available to work on the project about 10 hours a week.” Mention that you are interested in applying for a UROP assistantship once you have experience in the lab with the project, but that you can volunteer hours until that point.

Self-Promotion/Ask for a lab tour

I have a deep passion for ________, and as a result I am interested in participating in research to further expand my knowledge and usefully apply it. I hope you will consider letting me take part in your research. If it is possible, I would like meet with you to discuss and learn about your intriguing research and tour your lab. Thank you very much in advance for your time.

Sincerely, I look forward to meeting you,

Name

E-mail address

Home or cell #

• What to do if faculty do not respond?
• Reach out to other faculty
• Check for office hours
Video
Check out the Undergraduate Research Symposia to be inspired

• Spring, Summer & Fall
  • Spring: welcomes posters, talks, performances, and art installations.
  • Summer: poster presentations only
  • Fall: Virtual presentations
• Deadlines: Spring Symposium, April 9 (Deadline to register: March 17)

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
OUR Research Opportunity Database

[https://our.utah.edu/find-a-research-opportunity/](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.
Post-Survey

- https://utahsa.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bPjudkr1dsmSl

- Link to the Post-Survey is always available online

- Due by the last day of class.
Funding Opportunities
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)

• UROP provides undergraduate students and mentors the opportunity to work together on research or creative projects.

• UROP awardees are hired as temporary, employees by OUR and are paid $1,200 for 120 hours of research or creative work during the semester.

• Students may apply for UROP any semester and may be eligible for a one-semester renewal.

https://our.utah.edu/urop
Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR)

- Nationally competitive summer opportunity
- [https://our.utah.edu/spur/](https://our.utah.edu/spur/)
- $5,000 stipend as well as on-campus housing and UCard benefits
- Student Deadline: January 28th
Travel & Small Grants

- 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/
Scholarships

• 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

https://our.utah.edu/scholarships
Monson Essay 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/](https://our.utah.edu/for-students/monson-prize/)

• Deadline: March 1, 2024

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

Show up in their transcript
https://our.utah.edu/ursd
Sharing Research
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.
  • 2023 second issue, 1,368 views in 2 weeks.

• Requirement for the Undergraduate Research Scholar Designation.*
Resources for you
Funding Fridays & IRB Lab

• Funding Fridays: Every Friday 11AM-12PM via Zoom Register to Attend
  • https://our.utah.edu/funding-fridays/
• IRB Lab: Forthcoming
  • https://our.utah.edu/irb-lab/
Research advising

• Schedule with an OUR Staff member for questions regarding research.

• Peer-mentoring is also provided by OUR's Undergraduate Research Leaders.

• Learn about the many programs OUR has to offer.

• Receive support on how to get started applications, how to find a mentor, or prepare for a presentation.

• https://our.utah.edu/researchadvising/
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