



Office of Undergraduate Research
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www.buffalostate.edu/undergraduateresearch

Frequently Asked Questions About Undergraduate Research

Why should I conduct research as an undergraduate?

Undergraduate research is one of the best ways to learn more about a subject that interests you. It allows you to apply what you've learned in class, explore a specific topic in greater depth, and interact closely with your faculty mentor. The experience may help you make decisions about attending graduate school and can enhance your career opportunities. And the skills you learn conducting research—investigation, analysis, reasoning, and communication—are essential in today's information economy.

Is research only for science majors?

Absolutely not! At Buffalo State, students in all academic disciplines conduct research and creative activities. Researchers work in the arts and humanities, social sciences, education, and across disciplinary boundaries—so there is no shortage of possibilities.

Is research just for juniors and seniors?

Not at Buffalo State. Our programs are open to all students. Many freshmen and sophomores have conducted research and presented their findings during the annual Student Research and Creativity Celebration. Other students have been funded by the Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship Program. With recent funding from the National Science Foundation, we are expanding research opportunities for students in science, technology, computer information systems, and math for students completing their freshman year.

How do I get started?

You can learn more about undergraduate research and available programs from our Web site: www.buffalostate.edu/undergraduateresearch. You should also talk to your professors and let them know you're interested in doing research. Many of them have ongoing projects that you can become part of. You can also let a faculty member know about a particular question, problem, or field of study that interests you.

Is there any funding available to support undergraduate research?

Yes. The Undergraduate Research Office has programs to support materials and travel associated with conducting a project, student stipends to support research being conducted in the summer, and when you are ready to present your research, there is support for expenses associated with travel to regional, national, and international

meetings. Some faculty have their own funding to support students and professional societies may also have programs to support undergraduate research. It is recommended that you discuss sources of funding with your faculty mentor. All funding requests to the Undergraduate Research Office require the completion of an application and the support of your faculty adviser. Learning how to request funds also develops important skills, and your faculty mentor will help you complete the application.

Is research only for full-time students?

No! But you should carefully consider how much time you can devote to a project. Conducting undergraduate research is an important academic endeavor and requires a high level of commitment. Some students work several hours a week on a project during the academic year and devote full time to the project in the summer. Undergraduate research is an arrangement you make with your faculty mentor. It requires both of you to agree on the amount of time and the degree of flexibility involved in any project. Always communicate with your mentor to ensure that the arrangement works well for both of you.

Will undergraduate research help me after graduation?

Conducting undergraduate research provides an advantage when seeking employment or admission to graduate or professional school, but it carries many other benefits as well. Undergraduate research is a way for you to enhance your educational experience, learn more about yourself, gain confidence, and contribute new knowledge to a particular discipline.

Can I conduct undergraduate research and still participate in the national or international exchange program?

Absolutely! In fact, you may be able to combine both and take advantage of your exchange experience to conduct research in another part of the country or overseas. You should talk to your professors and obtain more information from the International and Exchange Office.