

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Getting Started!

1. **Make a list** of the subjects that really interest you and that you'd like to explore.
2. **Decide what you could gain** from working on a project—such as simply learning more about a field of study, being better prepared for a future career, and working closely with faculty and graduate students who can offer professional guidance and mentoring.
3. **Check out UCSB web pages** to identify researchers working on projects that interest you. You might want to sit in on an upper-division class to get a sense of a subject's scope.
4. **Tell your professors of your interest** after class or during office hours. Make a specific appointment to discuss.

Before your appointment, read about the general research area and, perhaps, read one or two published papers before your meeting. Published papers are listed on faculty web pages.

Develop a description of up to a page explaining why you want to do research and why a faculty mentor should want to work with you. Include information on your major, if you have identified it; background courses you have taken; and time availability and commitment (number of quarters you will be available; hours per week; times available). Be sure the faculty member knows how to get in touch with you.

5. **Talk with the academic adviser in your major.** (And don't limit your thinking to just one discipline. Most UCSB professors work in at least two fields, and 20 percent of all faculty have appointments in more than one department.)

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- **Pre-Requisites:** You must earn a 3.0 grade point average or higher for three consecutive quarters before you start research. This shows that you have the potential to understand the concepts you need to succeed in your research. You will need to be able to manage your time and balance your class work and research to maintain a 3.0 GPA.
 - **Graduate schools** require a 3.0 grade point average to be accepted into their programs. You will also need to take GRE exams and have letters of recommendation from faculty members. You need research experience to show that you understand the commitment required to becoming a successful graduate student.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, visit the **HANDOUT HUB**
(<http://career.sa.ucsb.edu/resources/handout-hub>)
on the Career Services Website!

- Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA):
www.LTSC.ucsb.edu/urca.
- General Undergraduate Research at UCSB:
www.research.ucsb.edu/undergrad
- STEM Undergraduate Research Programs:
http://career.sa.ucsb.edu/sites/career.sa.ucsb.edu/files/docs/handouts/STEMresearchopportunities_0.pdf
- Resources for Healthcare Professions:
http://career.sa.ucsb.edu/sites/career.sa.ucsb.edu/files/docs/handouts/Healthcareopportunities_0.pdf
- Internships for MCDB, Chemistry, and Biochemistry Majors:
http://career.sa.ucsb.edu/sites/career.sa.ucsb.edu/files/docs/handouts/MCDB%2CChem%2CBiochemInternships_0.pdf
- Public Health Career Information:
<http://career.sa.ucsb.edu/sites/career.sa.ucsb.edu/files/docs/handouts/PublicHealthCareerInformation.pdf>
- Nursing Career Information:
<http://career.sa.ucsb.edu/sites/career.sa.ucsb.edu/files/docs/handouts/NursingCareerInformation.pdf>