CONTRIBUTE TO....

LEARNING, RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, CREATIVE WORK, ENTREPRENEURSHIP....

A NEW GENERATION OF CRITICAL THINKERS AND PROBLEM SOLVERS PREPARED TO POSITIVELY IMPACT OUR GLOBAL SOCIETY.

WHAT MAKES FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY A WORLD CLASS INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.
Welcome Research Mentors
The Center for Undergraduate Research and Academic Engagement (CRE)

Florida State University is committed to providing an environment that maximizes all students’ educational growth and empowers students to become scholar-citizens ready to address problems facing our world. Promoting students’ development in this way requires a campus-wide ecosystem that both challenges and supports students at all levels, and undergraduate research coupled with research mentor support is a central pillar in FSU’s effort to do so.

In order to meet the varied needs of our students, FSU has embedded undergraduate research throughout the university, providing both curricular and co-curricular programming that is accessible to students despite background, discipline, or socioeconomic status. Forming the base of Florida State’s and the CRE’s undergraduate research engagement model is the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), a program which began in 2012-13 by an initiative from the Division of Undergraduate Studies and our predecessor unit, the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR).

As a result of programs like UROP, nearly 40% of FSU undergraduates actively engage in research, or are making plans to begin. As the primary office chosen to spearhead FSU’s undergraduate research movement, our approach provides a scaffolding model embedded within an equity-minded framework, promoting incremental challenges and support for all students as they move along the trajectory towards independent scholarship. Through collaborations with exceptional research mentors like yourself, we were able to provide high-impact engagement opportunities that directly impacted 4,000 students in 2014-15, national recognition by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) in 2015, and unlimited potential to make 2016-17 our most accomplished year to date.
UROP Research mentor roles

1) Selecting a student(s). Students selected by the CRE to participate in UROP will be given research mentor project listings in the beginning of the Fall semester, and with the help of their UROP Leaders, will select projects to apply to. Research Mentors, i.e., our faculty and approved graduate student research leaders, will then conduct interviews to select the student(s) they plan to hire. We recommend you conduct face-to-face interviews, preferably in or around the desired research setting.

2) Orienting students. Once Research Mentors have selected their UROP assistant(s), they will be responsible for outlining students’ roles on the project and delineating their expectations. Mentors should develop a work schedule, general expectations are 5-10 hours per week, address any specific research principles or safety concerns germane to the setting, review the conceptual framework or disciplinary approach to the project, and introduce the new assistant to any other research team members.

3) Working with students. Once students are comfortable with their Research Mentor and the project, they will work to contribute to the project in keeping with the Research Mentor’s expectations and their established schedule. To facilitate this process, Research Mentors should include UROP assistants in research team meetings, supervise students’ work on the project, and meet with them regularly to provide direction and feedback.
4) Eligibility. You are eligible to hire a UROP student if you are affiliated with Florida State University as a faculty member, lecturer, research scientist, doctoral candidate, or post-doctoral fellow in any school or college. Other qualified graduate students may be eligible, and inquiries should be directed to CRE Director Dr. Joe O’Shea.

5) Funding support. The CRE supports all students throughout their experience working alongside our research mentors. Most students are eligible for compensation through Federal Work Study and/or academic credit. Many departments have additional, internal funding support mechanisms, and other assistantships can be done for DIS credit, internship, or on a volunteer basis. Proposed research projects do not need to be funded, and faculty participating in UROP may apply for supplementary, materials grants up to $1000 ($250 for graduate students). Funds are typically used for purchasing equipment or supplies students will be using to conduct research and/or student transportation to and from an off-campus research site. A separate application is required for supplementary funding consideration.

6) Recognition. While not directly compensated by the CRE, outside of students’ time and efforts, faculty often use UROP sponsorship to bolster tenure and promotion applications, for future grant proposals, and to further recognize our faculty for the work they do with undergraduates, the CRE offers two Undergraduate Research Mentor awards of $2000 each annually, one reserved for a UROP Research Mentor.
The UROP student experience requires commitment for a full academic year, and consists of three, interconnected program modules.

Colloquium course. Facilitated by a UROP peer leader(s), an experienced undergraduate researcher who has completed the entire UROP student module, participants meet every other week during the academic year with their leader(s) and fellow UROP students to receive personalized research guidance, explore various research and campus resources, and engage peers about their own research.

Research assistantship. The UROP students work closely with a faculty mentor or other eligible research mentor between 5-10 hours weekly assisting them in a research project. This is the hallmark of research mentor involvement in the program.

Presentation. The third part of the UROP program fulfills a vital component of the research process, presentation—student participants are required to present their work as poster presentations at the annual undergraduate research symposium. While not required, we ask that research mentors make an effort to attend the annual Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium, a celebration of your combined research efforts and student development.
Inquiry, investigation, and discovery are at the heart of Florida State’s mission. Working closely with our excellent research mentors and peers as research assistants, UROP participants can quickly begin impacting items critical to the continued success of our great research university, and their mentor's world class research lines. 2014-15, the most recent data collection and reporting period, was an exciting period of growth for the UROP program, such growth included:

• In the program’s first year (2012-13) 94 students participated in UROP projects, and 2016-17 participation levels are likely to reach 400 students, an over 300% increase

• Extended involvement opportunities for historically underrepresented populations, including 71 minority students (34.6%), 44 first generation college students (21.46%), and 11 CARE program participants (5.37%)

• Expanded outreach efforts to integrate research opportunities for groups such as the Creative and Performing Arts | Student Veterans | Transfer Students | Center for Hispanic Marketing/Communication

• Between 2014-15 UROP experienced its most diverse representation of STEM research mentors to date, including mentors from the Departments of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science (EOAS), Biomedical Science, Scientific Computing, and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (MagLab), combined with 113 STEM students (55.1%).
Additional Resources

Although this list does not represent the full library of available resources to further explore undergraduate research, it provides CRE invested stakeholders a valuable starting point.

1) **Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)**, specifically the works of world-renown higher education researcher Dr. George D. Kuh, on high-impact educational practices. Available at: [aacu.org/leap/hips](http://aacu.org/leap/hips)

2) **The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)**, the leading international organization for dissemination and promotion of undergraduate research activities and news. Available at: [cur.org](http://cur.org)

3) **The University of Michigan Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program**, a national, benchmark program for excellence in undergraduate research. Available at: [lsa.umich.edu/urop](http://lsa.umich.edu/urop)

4) **FSU’s CRE website**, including specific information useful for research mentors such as various impact evaluation outcomes (Faculty/Research Mentors tab), and additional information about our other programs and events (Students and Events tabs). Available at: [cre.fsu.edu](http://cre.fsu.edu)
UROP
HIGH-IMPACT STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

RESEARCH MENTOR OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE FOR 2016-17.

Questions? Please direct any UROP specific questions to CRE Director Dr. Joe O'Shea at: joshea@fsu.edu

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