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2012-2013 Inagural UROP Class
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) is to enrich the undergraduate academic experience by offering the rare opportunity for first- and second-year students to partner with our excellent faculty as research assistants.

There are 3 parts to UROP: Colloquium, Assistantship, and Presentation. Students in UROP work closely with faculty and peers in the Assistantship, receive mentorship and training in the UROP Colloquium class, and present their contributions in the Spring Research Symposium. In addition, UROP is committed to providing academic support services through research skill building workshops and research peer groups to create a student research community.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: THE COLLOQUIUM

The UROP Colloquium is a training course that will show you how to engage in research and what research can do for you. The Colloquium is a small class that will be instructed by your UROP Leader—an undergraduate student experienced in research—and will offer you support in learning about research, finding and contributing to a faculty project, and presenting your work.

The UROP Colloquium will meet on a biweekly basis during the Fall 2013 – Spring 2014 academic year. This one-credit-hour pass/fail course is designed to introduce you to research and offer ongoing support through your participation in UROP. This is not a designated study hour for you to work on research specifically for your professor. In the Colloquium, you will discuss and engage with research topics, meet and hear from prestigious guest speakers, and learn hands-on at skill-building workshops.

By the end of the academic year and the Colloquium, UROP students will be able to:
• Define research and identify its role in the world
• Identify basic research designs and methods
• Read and review peer-reviewed articles
• Identify ethical concerns regarding research integrity and responsibility
• Write a research abstract
• Present their research in an academic/research setting
• Engage with a faculty member in a research setting.

“Working with a UROP leader was really helpful this past year. We discussed everything from the pragmatic aspect of Humanities Research all the way to the philosophical, “why does this matter” aspect. It’s been a lot of fun. I’ve really enjoyed myself. I feel like I’ve gotten a lot from this course. After this year I kind of know what I want to do and I think having a UROP leader guide us through that was a big, fundamental part of that.”

- Chase Shiflet
UROP Student
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: THE ASSISTANTSHIP

With the help of your UROP Leader, you will select a faculty research project. In this assistantship with your Research Sponsor, a faculty member at FSU, you will have duties that vary by discipline and specific project, but may include tasks like preparing samples, collecting data, conducting interviews, or compiling sources. This assistantship lasts for two semesters. You will be learning through research much in the same way that your faculty is learning every day. This relationship with your Research Sponsor can lead to further opportunities, such as further or funded assistantships, positions in labs, coauthorship in a faculty publication, presentation opportunities, or other networking opportunities.

Some examples of the research you could do in your assistantship include:

• In the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields: lab research, testing and working with equipment, sample preparation, data collection and entry, experimentation, bench work, running assays, working with model organisms, collecting data, learning laboratory techniques

• In the Social Sciences: community-based research, conducting and transcribing interviews, surveys, data collection, analysis and organization, bibliographic work, editing, indexing, assembling sources, reading for and preparing literature reviews, descriptive and analytical statistics, participant observation, content analysis, visual interpretations, incorporating theoretical perspectives

• In the Arts and Humanities: library research, bibliography, compiling sources, archival research, literature reviews, writing summaries and abstracts, indexing, manuscript preparation, Special Collections research, digital retrieval of primary sources (books, manuscripts, paintings, videos, etc.), assistance with performance art, fact-checking, writing for permissions, and database research.

“Working with my UROP professor has been an incredible experience. I had the opportunity to work with him on this research project but in creating that unique bond we worked on a lot of other things. He helped me academically, telling me what classes I should take to better my research skills and also [his guidance] extended into my own research.”

- Matthew Prince
UROP Student

Working with your Research Sponsor

Once you have been selected to assist a Research Sponsor, they will outline your role in the project and their expectations. You will be responsible for contributing to the project in keeping with your Research Sponsor’s expectations and established schedule. This will likely include your involvement in research team meetings and regular and continuous feedback on your performance.

One of the greatest advantages of participating in UROP is the relationship you build with your Research Sponsor, and we encourage you to actively nurture that relationship by doing your best work during your UROP assistantship and continuing to work with your Sponsor once your UROP experience is over.

Project Selection

UROP students will apply and interview for faculty projects they are interested in participating in, and faculty Research Sponsors will select their assistants in the beginning of the semester. Your UROP Leader will facilitate this process by helping you identify your own strengths and interests and guiding you to projects and faculty members that best fit you.

Click HERE to view past UROP presentations!

Florida State University President Eric Barron at the 2013 UROP Symposium
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: 
THE PRESENTATION

All UROP students will present their work in the Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium, where they will showcase their contributions to their Research Sponsors’ projects. Part of the Colloquium will be to prepare you to present a poster at the symposium. One of the most important parts of research is sharing your findings with the rest of the academic community. To help you prepare for this you will attend the Fall Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Awards (URCAA) Symposium. There you will get to see what presenting research looks like and how it fits into the academic culture at Florida State. Then in the Spring, you will participate in sharing your research at the Undergraduate Research Symposium. This rewards you with a conference presentation in your first or second year, a marker of your ability to not only conduct research but to communicate your results effectively; this is an opportunity that many students do not have until their junior or senior year, if at all.

For more information on the symposium see the 2013 Spring Symposium Program here.

ELIGIBILITY

UROP is open to all first and second year students in all schools and colleges of The Florida State University. UROP students are some of the brightest and most motivated at FSU, and represent nearly every academic discipline on campus. In the program’s first year (2012-2013) 94 students were accepted out of over 500 applications.

For the Fall 2013 – Spring 2014 academic year, we will only accept 200 students, so UROP is highly competitive. Your application takes into account more than just GPA and test scores, so we encourage everyone who is interested to apply.

UROP students will:
• Commit to an entire academic year (Fall-Spring) of participation in UROP.
• Participate in a biweekly Colloquium class, lead by your UROP Leader, an undergraduate student experienced in research, to facilitate their understanding of research and their faculty assistantships. This Colloquium will include basic topics like what “research” is, approaches to research in your discipline, how to conduct ethical research, and how to present research.
• Meet with their UROP Leader to orient their selection of a faculty project and give ongoing support throughout their UROP experiences.
• Work 5-10 hours each week as assistants to their Research Sponsors.
• Present at the Spring Research Symposium

“I think the best thing that a student gets out of the UROP program is the human aspect of it, the mentor aspect, the working one on one with a professor at such an early stage [in addition to] that mentorship from an older peer, who can show you the way, open doors that you might not have even known existed before.”
- Jake Gibbons
UROP Leader
BENEFITS TO THE STUDENT

UROP is more than just another class or some extra reading. It is a part of FSU’s effort to enrich the undergraduate experience by opening up opportunities, engaging students, improving the quality of undergraduate education, and individualizing your education. As a UROP participant you will be able to:

• Participate in three great opportunities in one year: research training, research experience, and a conference publication.
• Work one-on-one with a professor helps and create a close working relationship that will help foster a small campus atmosphere.
• Engage in hands-on learning in addition to what you are doing in the classroom.
• Identify some of your own academic and career interests.
• Receive individualized attention from your Research Sponsor and UROP Leader.
• Obtain a great letter of recommendation from your Research Sponsor.
• Allow for your application to be more competitive for graduate and professional schools as undergraduate research is becoming more of a staple for post-baccalaureate degrees.
• Contribute to some of the groundbreaking research being conducted by our faculty at a Research 1 Institution.
• Compete for research awards and National fellowships like Rhodes, Marshall, and Truman.

I feel like the UROP experience was very well rewarding. The amount of time and dedication that I had to put into it [made the program] very demanding and very challenging but I feel that a lot of great things are going to come through this. I’ve gotten to experience a lot of great things such as presenting my research at other universities.”

- Nohelia Orozco
UROP Student

I thought UROP was really great because it kind of opened the doors to research. I had no idea how to find teachers, how to find a project and they really helped me go through all of that so that I could find something that I enjoyed researching in.

- Caroline Kiernan

CALENDAR

August
26th: Fall Semester Begins
29th: Drop/Add Ends

September
TBA: UROP Colloquiums will commence in the fall semester on a bimonthly basis once a month, every month for the year on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

October
1st: All final contracts between UROP students and Professor mentors are due
TBA: Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium at Turnbull Conference Center

November
27th-30th: Thanksgiving Break

December
9th-13th: Final Exam Week

January
6th: Spring Semester Begins
9th: Drop/Add Ends

January
20th: Martin Luther King Holiday
TBA: Deadline of submission for Summer Research Stipends

February
21st: End of the 7th week in the semester; Last day to drop a class without receiving a grade
TBA: Applications due to present at the Spring Symposium at 4 p.m.

March
10th-14th: Spring Break
TBA: Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium at Strozier Library & Summer Research stipends announced.

April
4th: Deadline for late drop with Dean’s permission.
28th-2nd: Final Exam Week
TBA: Window closes for Current FSU Freshman to apply to UROP program
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What majors can participate in UROP?
First- and second-year students from every college and every major at FSU are eligible to participate in UROP.

Will I be paid as a research assistant?
Students eligible for Federal Work-Study can earn their Work-Study funds through participation in UROP, but will have to meet the hour requirements designated in their Work-Study agreement. Otherwise, students generally will not be paid for the assistantship.

Will I earn academic credit for participating in UROP?
In the Fall semester you will earn one credit hour for participation in and successful completion of the UROP Colloquium. In the Spring semester you may elect to participate in up to three hours of DIS credit for your UROP assistantship, or you may continue on an extracurricular or volunteer basis.

Am I required to do research within my major?
No. All students are encouraged to pursue research in the field they find most interesting.

What is the minimum GPA?
There is no minimum GPA for application to or participation in UROP. While we take into account GPA and test scores, admission to UROP also considers extracurricular activities, your short essay response, and other factors, so we encourage all interested first- and second-year students to apply.

What if I am not interested in any of the available projects?
UROP students will apply and interview for faculty projects they are interested in participating in, and faculty Research Sponsors will select their assistants. Your UROP Leader will facilitate this process by helping you identify your own strengths and interests and guiding you to projects and faculty members that best fit you. If you do not feel that one of the available faculty projects matches your talents and interests, you will also have the option to work with a professor of your choosing by asking him or her to list a research project for you to work on. Consult your UROP Leader if you are interested in pursuing this option.

For questions regarding UROP visit: http://our.fsu.edu/urop.html