Student Research Program (SRP-99)

Earn Academic Credit for Research!

- Designed for entry-level research
- Earn 1-2 units of lower division P/NP credit
- Sometimes required before moving on to upper division research credit (199). Check with your department
- May be required for research in certain labs both on and off-campus. For example, all research at Cedars Sinai requires a 99 contract
- Generate the contract on MyUCLA only after a faculty mentor has agreed to accept you into their lab
- Enrollment is on a per quarter basis. Hard copy contracts are always due Friday of Week 2 to the URC-Sciences Office by 5pm (with proof of completion of Lab Safety Fundamental Concepts training, if required). No exceptions
- Learn more online or at an SRP workshop (schedule is available on the URC-Sciences website)

Upper Division Credit

Upper division research courses (199’s) are meant for more advanced, intensive, and self-directed research. You can take a 199 for 4-5 units of upper division credit for a letter grade. Must have Junior or Senior standing to enroll.

Contracts are submitted to departmental counselors, not the URC-Sciences office!

We’re Here to Help!

The Undergraduate Research Center - Sciences (URC-Sciences) works to serve students and faculty in the life and physical sciences, engineering, and mathematics.

Our goal is to promote, develop, and celebrate undergraduate education, increasing retention of students in STEM majors, as well preparing students, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, for academic and research careers.

Our office provides resources and tools to help students enter STEM research. We also administer a number of competitive programs, scholarships, fellowships, and grants that support students academically, professionally, and financially. For more information about the programs our office administers, please visit our website.

Office Information

2121 Life Sciences Building
Monday-Friday: 8am - 5pm
310-794-4227
urcsem@ lifesci.ucla.edu
http://ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/
Common Research Questions

1. **What is research?**
   Research is independent study in a field of interest, usually done in a lab run by a faculty mentor, or principal investigator (PI).

2. **Why should I do research?**
   Conducting research is required if you are interested in applying to graduate or professional school. Research also provides valuable work experience, can help you determine if a career in research is right for you, looks great on CV's/resume's, and allows you to build meaningful relationships with faculty mentors. Plus, you can earn $$ or university credit for the time you spend in a lab as an undergraduate.

3. **When should I start research?**
   - Freshmen: sophomore year
   - Transfers: your 2nd quarter at UCLA
   It takes time to adjust to the quarter system and the rigor of UCLA coursework. Establish a proper work-life balance before adding a research commitment to your schedule.

4. **Can I do research in other departments?**
   Yes, you are not limited to research within your major. However, check with your academic counselor to see what department makes the most sense for your academic and professional goals.

How do I find a lab?

Finding a research opportunity is very much like finding a job. All undergraduates are responsible for finding their own faculty mentor.

A great place to begin is the Undergraduate Research Portal on MyUCLA under the "Academics" tab. More info on the next panel.

Another place to look are faculty page websites of the departments you are interested in conducting research in. Each faculty page lists all faculty actively conducting research as well as more info on their specific area of research.

After browsing the Undergraduate Research Portal and the Department Websites, we recommend making a list of at least 10 faculty you would like to contact.

Before contacting a PI, compose a personalized CV and cover letter introducing yourself, explaining your interest in joining their lab, and requesting an interview to meet. Examples are available on the URC-Sciences website. Send the cover letter as the body of your email with your CV included as an attachment.

If you don't hear back within a week, send a polite follow up email. Be persistent!

Undergraduate Research Portal

The Undergraduate Research Portal is a platform on MyUCLA where faculty can post and advertise active research opportunities in their labs. This is an excellent resource for finding a lab to join.

Undergraduates also have the ability to create custom profiles for faculty to view. This means faculty can contact students directly if their qualifications interest them.

The Undergraduate Research Portal can be accessed on MyUCLA under the "Academics" tab.

Keep in mind that the opportunities posted on the Portal are not comprehensive of all opportunities available at UCLA. We recommend you also visit department websites' faculty pages to find a faculty mentor you would be interested working with.

**Research Poster Day**

Not sure what type of research is going on in your field? Want to know what it's like to work in a specific lab you're interested in?

Check out Research Poster Day!

Research Poster Day takes place annually in May and is the culminating event for celebrating undergraduate research at UCLA across all disciplines.

This event is an amazing opportunity to network with undergraduate researchers about their project and their lab.