Get Involved in Undergraduate Research!
What is Undergraduate Research?

- Opportunity for students to pursue topics of interest outside of the classroom
- A project that requires basic and/or complex knowledge of a particular field
- Conducted by groups on campus led by faculty and graduate students or by individual students
- Create new knowledge or interpret existing knowledge in novel ways
- All majors and backgrounds are represented
- Not limited to the sciences or to Honors students
Why should I do research as an undergraduate?

- Apply what you have learned in coursework
- Develop new skills in your field as well as transferable critical thinking skills
- Create meaningful relationships with faculty
- Help you choose a future career path
- Create new works that are appreciated by the campus community and beyond
- Help you build connections and test the idea of working in the academic sphere
- Experience the thrill of discovery
When should I start doing research?

- You can start any time.
- Many students conduct research in their major, but you can do research in any field.
- Some opportunities may require completion of specific courses or other skills.
How long should I pursue research?

- Pursue research for as long as you find appropriate/useful
- You may choose to stay with one project or explore research in different areas.
  - In the natural sciences, most students begin as basic lab techs with minimal critical thinking tasks. With more experience and a strong work ethic, the research group should offer greater responsibility.
What will I be doing?

- You will be supported and mentored by a faculty or graduate mentor.
- Work on an existing project or help develop a new project with your research mentor.
- Daily tasks vary by discipline: from laboratory work in chemistry, interviewing subjects in psychology, analyzing primary sources in history, or creating works of art.
- No two research experiences are alike; speak to multiple professors to find the best fit for you.
Students of all majors can conduct research! Some examples of past research include:

- **Women's Studies** – *A La Frontera: Accessing Midwives at the U.S.–Mexico Border* Kimberly Garner 2010
- **Political Science** – *Death Penalty Legislative Trends* Alexander Loyal 2012
- **History** – *Ableman v. Booth: States’ Rights and Abolition in Pre–Civil War Wisconsin* Anna Peterson 2010
- **Biology** – *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill is a Microbial Smorgasbord* Kelly Speare 2011

Search “Past student projects” on the UNC Office for Undergraduate Research website at our.unc.edu to see more!
What is the Office for Undergraduate Research (OUR)?

- A campus office whose mission is to “expand the opportunities for undergraduates to engage in research,” the Office for Undergraduate Research offers many programs, opportunities and resources to help students.

- Look for our laptop stickers on campus, and get one yourself for free at the OUR office at Memorial Hall.
What are my funding or credit options?

- Some research groups offer funding for undergraduates.
- Look for “Research–Intensive Courses” numbered 195, 295, 395, 495, 595, or 695. These can be taken for credit and count towards your GPA.
- Apply for a SURF– Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship
  - Approximately 60 awards of $3,000 each
  - Due February each year
  - Peer writing mentors available through OUR
- Look for departmental scholarships
How can I get started?

- Look for professors on departmental websites who are conducting research that interests you. Talk to them!
- Not quite ready yet? Go to our.unc.edu and look on the left side under “getting started”
  - Review tips for contacting professors and editing your CV
  - Database of research opportunities
  - Research course options
  - Talk to a peer Ambassador for Undergraduate Research—we are happy to answer your questions!
If you take away nothing else...

our.unc.edu

Your one stop for everything undergraduate research at Carolina.
Check us out; you will be glad you did!