Office for Undergraduate Research

Associate Dean
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Promoting Educational Achievement

Innovative Research & Mentored Scholarship

Entrepreneurship

Creative Expression
OUR’s Vision and Mission

OUR’s vision

• A university where all students can engage in innovative research, mentored scholarship, creative expression, and entrepreneurship

OUR’s mission

• Support undergraduates, graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, and faculty involved in undergraduate research by administering programs that facilitate, fund, and recognize undergraduate research efforts.
OUR’s Strategies

• **Mentored Research Programs:** Stimulate and fund opportunities for UNC-Chapel Hill undergraduates to engage in mentored research with faculty and UNC-Chapel Hill and around the world.

• **Instructional Programs for Undergraduates:**
  Promote high quality undergraduate instruction to students through courses that expose undergraduates to different modes of inquiry (e.g. IDST 194) and encourage the development of opportunities for undergraduate engagement in innovative research, creative expression, and entrepreneurial endeavors (e.g., GRCs).

• **Instructional Programs for Faculty, Graduate Students, and Post-Doctoral Scholars:**
  Facilitate training of faculty, post-doctoral scholars, and graduate students in inquiry-based teaching methods and engaged research scholarship.

• **Program Evaluation and Analysis:** Analyze and synthesize current data on participation in undergraduate research across the university and present it in a user friendly format.

• **Outreach:** Develop and maintain collaborative relationships with faculty, staff and students throughout UNC-Chapel Hill and communicate results of research by undergraduates to the UNC-Chapel Hill and broader North Carolina communities.

• **Grant Development:** Facilitate the development and administration of grants to promote mentored research with undergraduates and inquiry-based teaching methods (e.g., GRCs, flipped classrooms).

• **Fundraising:** Build an endowment to improve the sustainability and financial independence of OURs research, instructional, and outreach programs
OUR’s History

- **1994:** The provision of "high quality undergraduate instruction to students within a community engaged in original inquiry and creative expression" explicitly stated in the University's mission statement.

- **1999:** OUR established to expand the opportunities for undergraduates at UNC-Chapel Hill to engage in innovative research, mentored scholarship, creative expression, and entrepreneurship.

- **2006:** Undergraduate research identified as a key component of UNC-Chapel Hill’s Quality Enhancement Plan.

- **2011:** UNC-Chapel Hill adopted an Academic Plan which established the goal of expanding support for undergraduate research and engaged scholarship.
OUR’s Signature Programs

The Office for Undergraduate works to facilitate access to research experiences for undergraduates by:

- **Research-Exposure Courses** embed a research component in a course with the support of a Graduate Research Consultant (GRC).
- **Research-Intensive Courses** devote more than half of the course to students’ conducting original research and presenting research findings.
- **Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships** allow eligible undergraduates to receive at least $3,000 to carry out original research under the supervision of a UNC-Chapel Hill faculty research advisor.
- **The Carolina Research Scholar Program** provides the opportunity for undergraduates to earn a special designation on their transcripts recognizing their engagement in research at UNC-Chapel Hill and preparation for research-related careers.
RESEARCH-EXPOSURE COURSES SUPPORTED BY GRC PROGRAM
Number of GRC Courses and GRCs, by Academic Year

- Courses
- GRCs
Number of Undergraduates in GRC courses, by Academic Year

Reduced Funding
GRC Courses 2013-14 by Division

GRC Courses (N=140)

Note: FAH indicates Fine Arts and Humanities; SS indicates Social Science; NS indicates Natural Science and Math; PS indicates Professional School.
Students and GRCs in GRC courses 2013-14, by Division

Students (N=3,183)

- FAH: 40%
- SS: 38%
- NS: 22%
- PS: 0%

GRCs (N=140)

- FAH: 39%
- SS: 31%
- NS: 24%
- PS: 6%

Note: In 2013-14, 13.5% of students graduated from Arts & Humanities; 33% from Natural Sciences; 25.5% from Social Sciences; and 28% from Professional Schools.
RESEARCH INTENSIVE COURSE PARTICIPATION
% Graduates Completing a Research Intensive Course, by Academic Year

College of Arts and Sciences  Professional Schools  Total

Note: In 2013-14, 3403 students graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences and 1268 students graduated from a professional school.
% Graduates Completing a Research Intensive Course, 2013-14

College of Arts and Sciences

- Fine Arts: 80%
- Humanities: 68%
- Natural Science: 57%
- Social Sciences: 73%

Professional Schools (Non-Health)

- Business: 36%
- Education: 44%
- SILS: 19%
- Journalism: 61%
% Graduates Completing a Research Intensive Course, 2013-14

Health Disciplines

- Dentistry: 18%
- Allied Health: 46%
- Nursing: 27%
- Pharmacy: 10%
- Public Health: 65%
Research-Intensive Course Participation among Graduates, by Largest Departments in A&S*

- Psychology (99.8%)
- Economics (98.5%)
- History (99.3%)
- Chemistry (80.9%)
- Global Studies (55.4%)
- Biology (55.7%)
- English and Comp. Literature (47.9%)
- Political Science (57.1%)
- Communication (48.9%)
- Sociology (48.7%)
- Exercise and Sports Science (27.5%)

*Note: Some departments offer multiple majors. The departments listed here are the eleven with the most graduating seniors in 2013-14.
% A&S Faculty Involved in Undergraduate Research, 2013-14

Note: Faculty Involvement is not available for Professional School faculty.
SURF PROGRAM PARTICIPATION
(INCLUDES C-SURF)
SURF Trends, by Academic Year

- Applicants
- Funded (All)
- Funded (Global)
SURF Trends, by Academic Year

- **Funded (% of Applicants)**
- **Global (% of Funded)**

Fewer applications
Note: In 2013-14, 13.5% of students graduated from Arts & Humanities; 33% from Natural Sciences; 25.5% from Social Sciences; and 28% from Professional Schools.
CAROLINA RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Carolina Research Scholars, Registrations by Academic Year

- Total (All)
- Total AH
- Total NS
- Total SS
- Total PS
- Total Other

Line chart showing the trend of registrations from 2008-09 to 2013-14 for Carolina Research Scholars by academic year.
Carolina Research Scholars, Registered since 2008 (N=1401)

- FAH: 7%
- NS: 63%
- SS: 17%
- PS: 8%
- UNDEC: 5%
Moving Forward

• Create new opportunities for engagement in research exposure, research intensive, and research methods courses
• Strengthen partnerships with professional schools and research centers
• Reach out to a greater diversity of faculty and students
• Improve data quality and opportunities for feedback on OUR programs.
THANK YOU