Office for
Undergraduate Research

Associate Dean
Krista M. Perreira, PhD
(Professor of Public Policy)
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 Research-Exposure Courses and GRCs, by Academic Year

- Declining funds available to support GRCs
- Special one-time allocation made to support additional GRCs
Number of Undergraduates in Research-Exposure Courses, by Academic Year

Reduced Funding
Research-Exposure Courses 2014-15 by Division

Total Courses (N=115)

Note: FAH indicates Fine Arts and Humanities; SS indicates Social Science; NS indicates Natural Science and Math; PS indicates Professional School.
Note: In 2014-15, 3,438 students graduated; 11.9% of students graduated from Fine Arts & Humanities (FAH); 36% from Natural Sciences (NS); 24.5% from Social Sciences (SS); and 27.3% from Professional Schools (PS).
RESEARCH INTENSIVE
COURSE PARTICIPATION
% Graduates Completing a Research-Intensive Course, by Academic Year

Note: In 2014-15, 3438 students graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences and 1293 students graduated from a professional school.
% Graduates Completing a Research-Intensive Course, 2014-15

**College of Arts and Sciences**
- Fine Arts: 72%
- Humanities: 65%
- Natural Science: 65%
- Social Sciences: 78%

**Professional Schools (Non-Health)**
- Business: 33%
- Education: 23%
- SILS: 62%
- Journalism: 78%
% Graduates Completing a Research-Intensive Course, 2014-15

Health Disciplines

- Dentistry: 5%
- Allied Health: 61%
- Nursing: 27%
- Pharmacy: 13%
- Public Health: 87%
Research-Intensive Course Participation among Graduates, by Largest Departments in A&S*

- Psychology (99.3%)
- History (98.5%)
- Economics (97.1%)
- Chemistry (76.5%)
- English and Comp. Literature (63.3%)
- Political Science (60.0%)
- Global Studies (57.8%)
- Biology (55.2%)
- Communication (54.7%)
- Computer Science (39.0%)
- Exercise and Sports Science (26.6%)

*Note: Some departments offer multiple majors. The departments listed here are the eleven with the most graduating seniors in 2014-15.
FACULTY INVOLVEMENT
% A&S Faculty Involved in Undergraduate Research, 2014-15

- Fine Arts (N=84) 50%
- Humanities (N=252) 43%
- Natural Sciences (N=366) 53%
- Social Sciences (N=289) 39%

Note: Faculty are classified based on their primary appointment. Faculty Involvement is not available for Professional School faculty. Of the 991 faculty in Arts and Sciences, 43% mentored students engaging in research.
SURF PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (INCLUDES C-SURF)
Note: The SURF program started in 2000-2001. However, data tracking did not begin until 2004-05.
Note: Fewer students aiming to conduct research abroad have been applying to the SURF program as alternative sources of support for research abroad (e.g., grants from the Center for Global Initiatives) have become available.
Note: Students are classified according to their first major. 11.9% of students graduated from Fine Arts & Humanities (FAH); 36% from Natural Sciences (NS); 24.5% from Social Sciences (SS); and 27.3% from Professional Schools (PS). Students may conduct research projects in a field outside of their major. Between 2-5% of students conduct SURFs outside of their major each year.
CAROLINA RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM
Carolina Research Scholars, Registrations by Academic Year
Carolina Research Scholars, Registered since 2008 (N=1568)

Note: Interdisciplinary Studies majors are included in the Social Science (SS) category. All reports are by a student’s first major.
Moving Forward

• Develop new research-exposure courses in collaboration with Arts@the Core and Makerspace
• Transform Carolina Research Scholars (CRS) program from a transcript designation to a community of scholars
• Expand outreach to encourage more SURF applications
• Strengthen fundraising efforts to support SURFs and GRCs through partnerships with young alumni and other units on campus
• Improve data quality and analysis at OUR
THANK YOU