**Undergraduate Research (URES) Learning Contract**

URES 195, 295, and 395 are courses designed to satisfy the Research & Discovery requirement of the IDEAs in Action general education curriculum in unique research settings or scenarios as described below. This document is considered a contract between the Student and the Research Mentor.

Registration for this course requires approval by the Office for Undergraduate Research. Please submit this application to the Office for Undergraduate Research via the [application portal](https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Ym2l6TDRcCW4WW) no later a week before the first day of classes. Students are strongly encouraged to begin this process early, well before the beginning of the semester.

For questions regarding URES 195, 295, or 395, contact [Anna Krome-Lukens](mailto:annakl@email.unc.edu), Director of Research Curricula in the Office for Undergraduate Research.

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Name:

PID:

Email Address:

**RESEARCH MENTOR INFORMATION**

Name:

Email Address:

Research Setting (i.e., name of academic department, lab, company, etc.):

**COURSE CHARACTERISTICS**

Semester: FALL  SPRING  SUMMER  Year:

Date when student will begin research:

Date when student will complete research:

Intended Course (select one):

URES 395

This course should be selected for students participating in research ***under the direction of a UNC-CH faculty mentor*** in an academic unit, institute, or center that cannot award them academic credit. *It is the student’s responsibility to determine if the mentor’s campus unit can assign undergraduate credit.* This course satisfies the Research & Discovery requirement and awards academic credit in the form of a letter grade that counts toward the graduation total and GPA. Students are expected to engage in research activities for at least 50 hours per credit hour (in a 15-week semester, this means at least 3-4 hours per week per credit hour), but the workload may vary as specified in the Student Responsibilities & Course Requirements below.

Credit Hours Sought:

1 (50 hours, 3-4 hrs/wk)

2 (100 hours, 6-8 hrs/wk)

3 (150 hours, 9-12 hr/wk)

URES 295

This course should be selected for students participating in research ***during the academic year or while registered for Summer School under the direction of a mentor who is not a member of the UNC-CH faculty*** (e.g. industry research, research abroad, etc.). This course satisfies the Research & Discovery requirement and awards academic credit in the form of 1 credit hour and a P/F grade that counts toward the graduation total, but not toward GPA. Students are expected to engage in research activities for at least 50 hours (e.g., at least 3-4 hours per week in a 15-week semester), but the workload may vary as specified in the “Student Responsibilities & Course Requirements” below.

URES 195

This course should be selected for students participating in ***volunteer research experiences during summer months or paid activities at any point during the year***. Students cannot simultaneously receive monetary compensation and academic credit for the same activity in many departments. This course satisfies the Research & Discovery requirement, but it does not award academic credit hours. Students are expected to engage in research activities for at least 50 hours (e.g., at least 3-4 hours per week in a 15-week semester), but the workload may vary as specified in the “Student Responsibilities & Course Requirements” below.

**RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY LEARNING OUTCOMES**

* Frame a topic, develop an original research question or creative goal, and establish a point of view, creative approach, or hypothesis.
* Obtain a procedural understanding of how conclusions can be reached in a field and gather appropriate evidence.
* Evaluate the quality of the arguments and/or evidence in support of the emerging product.
* Communicate findings in a clear and compelling ways.
* Critique and identify the limits of the conclusions of the project and generate ideas for future work.

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

* Provide a brief summary of the research experience, including an explanation of how the experience fulfills the learning outcomes for Research and Discovery courses (see above).

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES & COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Meeting Requirements**

* Research Mentors are expected to meet periodically with the student to discuss their progress and provide feedback. Please list any required meetings, including individual meetings with the Research Mentor and meetings with other members of the research team.

**Reading Requirements**

* The Research Mentor may choose to assign readings. If readings are required, please list them here. If you do not yet have a complete list of readings (e.g., the student will be selecting readings as part of their research process), please list 2-4 representative readings. If no readings are required, please indicate that.

**Assignments**

* Required final product
  + All students must write a paper (5-page minimum, double spaced) demonstrating the rationale for the research project, the methods used to obtain and evaluate data/information, conclusions drawn from the analysis, and application of the findings. The format of the paper can be specific to the discipline in which the research is conducted, and its length (i.e. beyond the 5-page minimum) can be dictated by the Research Mentor. In lieu of a paper, students can develop a research poster or slide presentation (e.g. Power Point) for dissemination. Students should submit the final product to the Research Mentor and the Office for Undergraduate Research **by 5:00 pm on the last day of classes for the semester in which the research was conducted**.
* Other assignments (add as needed below; please specify page lengths, due dates, or other assignment parameters)

**Assessment Plan**

* Enter the % of the course grade for each requirement or assignment listed above.

As the student, I have read the above and **I agree to undertake these responsibilities and requirements and will abide by the Honor Code’s responsibilities of students.**

(Student Signature) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**RESEARCH MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

* Supervise the student’s research.
* Provide assistance to the student when needed or requested.
* Meet periodically with the student to discuss his/her progress and provide feedback.
* Establish an assessment plan with the student.
* Help the student understand the broader context in which the research project fits and the basis for the methods and procedures used.
* Read and grade the student’s final product.
* Ensure that the student completes the required hours based on the credit hours sought.
* Submit a final grade to the Director of Research Curricula in the Office for Undergraduate Research (Anna Krome-Lukens) no later than 2 business days after the last day of classes.

As the Research Mentor, I have read the above and **I agree to undertake these responsibilities and will abide by the Honor Code’s responsibilities of faculty.**

(Research Mentor Signature) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW BY OFFICE FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

This application has been reviewed to ensure it is consistent with the criteria for the Research & Discovery credit as well as the criteria for the respective grade and academic credit where applicable. The proposal is:

APPROVED   
 REQUIRES MORE INFORMATION (provide details and return to instructor and student)

NOT APPROVED (provide rationale)

(Director of Research Curricula) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_