



## Goal

To explain undergraduate research and provide resources and opportunities for students to get started.

## Definition of Undergraduate Research

*An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.*

- The Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR)

The **CUR Registry of Undergraduate Researchers** seeks to assist graduate schools in their recruitment of high-quality students well prepared for research and undergraduates with research experience who wish to pursue an advanced degree. Visit <http://cur.org> for more information.

## Why Try Research?

- Find out what your major is really about (experience hands-on learning outside of the classroom)
- Learn how to collaborate with others and solve problems where the answer is not already known
- Improve writing and speaking skills
- Become a critical thinker and improve confidence in your abilities
- Improve professional opportunities
  - Create mentoring relationships
  - Use for a resume booster
  - Build a network of scholars in and outside of your own field
  - Open the door for more opportunities (publications, conferences, jobs, graduate school, national fellowships, etc.)
- Thrill of discovery

## Two Options

1. In-class assignment: Video by Dillon A. Jones '18, former Undergraduate Research Ambassador and member of Academy of Undergraduate Researchers Across Texas.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZLI-KE4aOM&t=735s>
2. Out-of-class assignment: Attend a Getting Started in Research Workshop



## LAUNCH: UGR Programs

Learn about LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research at <http://launch.tamu.edu/UGR/About-UGR>, or email LAUNCH: UGR Staff at [ugr@tamu.edu](mailto:ugr@tamu.edu) to connect with an Undergraduate Research Ambassador (see their profiles at <http://tx.ag/AskUsAboutUGR>).

### *Flagship Programs*

- Undergraduate Research Scholars Thesis Program: <http://launch.tamu.edu/UGR/URS>
- Undergraduate Research Ambassadors Outreach: <http://launch.tamu.edu/UGR/UGRA>
- *Explorations: The Texas A&M Undergraduate Journal*: <http://explorations.tamu.edu>

### *Additional Opportunities*

- Opportunities Database: <http://tx.ag/ROdatabase>
- Undergraduate Research Expo (Oct. 2, 2019): <http://tx.ag/UGRExpo>
- Undergraduate Research Scholars Symposium (Feb. 26, 2020): <http://tx.ag/URSymposium>
- Summer Poster Presentation (Jul. 29, 2020): <http://tx.ag/UGRsummeractivities>
- National Fellowships: <http://natlfellows.tamu.edu>
- Summer REUs at other institutions, Internships, Study Abroad, Partnerships (LT Jordan)

### *Upcoming Getting Started in Research Workshops*

- October 29, 2019: [https://calendar.tamu.edu/ugr/#!/view/event/event\\_id/96396](https://calendar.tamu.edu/ugr/#!/view/event/event_id/96396)
- November 22, 2019: [https://calendar.tamu.edu/ugr/#!/view/event/date/20191122/event\\_id/96397](https://calendar.tamu.edu/ugr/#!/view/event/date/20191122/event_id/96397)
- February 7, 2020: [https://calendar.tamu.edu/ugr/#!/view/event/date/20200207/event\\_id/96398](https://calendar.tamu.edu/ugr/#!/view/event/date/20200207/event_id/96398)
- March 20, 2020: [https://calendar.tamu.edu/ugr/#!/view/event/date/20200320/event\\_id/96402](https://calendar.tamu.edu/ugr/#!/view/event/date/20200320/event_id/96402)

## Contact

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<http://ugr.tamu.edu> | <http://launch.tamu.edu>  
<https://calendar.tamu.edu/ugr>

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## Activity

*Your Action Plan: How will YOU Get Started in Research?*

This exercise will help you create a plan for getting started in research. The questions should guide you through identifying your research interests, determining your faculty advisor, and contacting your potential faculty advisor.

Be as specific as possible in your answers (e.g. I have not attended a poster session, but I will attend the Undergraduate Research Expo to identify potential research interests).

### 1) **What research interests do you have?**

- Which classes are your favorite and why?
  
- Do you currently know any faculty with similar research interests to your own? If so, list names and contact information below:

### 2) **Where can you find a faculty advisor?** Check all of the boxes you have completed. Put the date you will complete any unchecked boxes.

- Department website (undergraduate research, faculty directory, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- Research posters in hallways near classes \_\_\_\_\_
- Poster presentations on campus \_\_\_\_\_
- Oral presentations on campus \_\_\_\_\_
- LAUNCH: Undergraduate Research Events (e.g. Undergraduate Research Expo, URS Symposium, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- LAUNCH Research Opportunities Database \_\_\_\_\_
- Conversations with the people below to find potential research positions:
  - Friends \_\_\_\_\_
  - Professors \_\_\_\_\_
  - Graduate Students \_\_\_\_\_
  - Upperclassmen \_\_\_\_\_

### 3) **How and when will you contact your potential faculty advisor?** Be specific! When will you contact them (today, this week, this year)? Will you send an email, or see them in person? Will you contact more than one professor? What skills will you employ from this workshop to contact your potential faculty advisor? Will you contact an Undergraduate Research Ambassador from today for any questions you still have?