



**UC DAVIS**

**Undergraduate Research Center**

Office of Undergraduate Education

## **Engaging Undergraduate Students in Research and Discovery**

Website: <http://urc.ucdavis.edu> Email: [urc@ucdavis.edu](mailto:urc@ucdavis.edu) 2300 Student Community Center

**Overview** - The URC represents a campus-wide collaboration that promotes undergraduate research as a high-impact student experience to enhance learning and readiness to succeed in future careers. Getting involved with research and discovery experiences enhances students' interactions with faculty, teaches students to think independently, develops critical analysis skills, and promotes leadership, teamwork and communication skills. The URC offers various awards and provides professional development and training activities and workshops to support skill development appropriate to the discipline (e.g., abstract writing, preparation for oral and poster presentations), and encourages student participation in research conferences and publication opportunities.

**Role of faculty** - Faculty guidance and mentoring is paramount to a positive and enriching undergraduate research experience. For all of our programs, fellowships and awards, faculty are required to be involved in the research process and must give their signature approval. A faculty member is also required to sponsor students for the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference. Additionally, faculty serve as PI's to our grants for CAMP and MURPPS, serve on the awards and prizes selection committees, serve as moderators for the conference, lend their expertise on the URC Faculty Advisory Board, and often lead many of our workshops/seminars.

### **What are different ways that faculty can have an impact?**

There are many ways that faculty can have an impact, ranging from 2 hour as a poster judge to a lifelong mentor.

- Serve as a moderator/poster judge at the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference in spring quarter (April 26-27, 2019) - *only a 1-2 hr time commitment*
- Mention research methods and benefits of participating in undergraduate research in your classes
- Serve on a faculty panel sharing about your own experiences participating in undergraduate research
- Mentor an undergraduate student in a discovery experience and positively impact them early in their academic and professional career
- Mentor undergraduate students to co-author publications and present their research at national conferences
- Request a supplement for an undergraduate research stipend from the NSF (or other agency)
- Include or support outreach and programs for undergraduate students in new grant proposals.
- Develop and teach a FYS Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) related to your research

**Research credit via 99, 199 and 194H course codes** - Every department on campus offers the course codes 99 (lower div) or 199 (upper div) "Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates", and also 194H (Honors Research). Students enroll in these courses when conducting research under the supervision of a UC Davis faculty member. Students must have permission of a faculty member and obtain a "Permission to Add" (PTA) number and CRN to enroll.

**Don't Cancel Class!** URC staff are readily available to make presentations about URC services in classes, workshops, orientations, and recruitment events. Contact us at [urc@ucdavis.edu](mailto:urc@ucdavis.edu) to make arrangements for your class. Short notice requests can be considered if staff are available at the desired date/time.

**Supporting Letters for NSF CAREER and other Grant Proposals** - The URC provide letters of support for NSF or other granting agencies. The URC faculty director can also offer ideas and suggestions for requesting NSF supplements to provide stipends to undergraduate researchers, or developing outreach activities in new grant proposals.

### **Stop by or send students to visit us!!**

The URC is located on the 2nd floor of the Student Community Center, <http://urc.ucdavis.edu>

#### **Undergraduate Research Center Staff**

Annaliese K. Franz, Faculty Director  
Elizabeth M. Nuñez, Associate Director

Lolita Adkins, Program Manager  
Dee Clark, Program Specialist

## URC Programs, Resources and Awards/Funding for Undergraduate Research

(selected examples)

### **CAMP: California Alliance for Minority Participation (NSF LSAMP)**

Aims to recruit and retain students in STEM majors, facilitate their academic success, and encourage their transition to graduate study. Faculty-mentored research play a large role in the program and CAMP Scholars participate in research for 40 h/week during the summer and 10 h/week during the academic year. Includes stipend and professional development activities. <http://urc.ucdavis.edu/programs/camp.html>.

### **Innovation Institute of Food & Health (IIFH) Undergraduate Research Fellows Program**

A unique fellowship opportunity that supports undergraduate research in food and agriculture innovations while also providing opportunities to learn about and participate in entrepreneurship activities. <http://urc.ucdavis.edu/programs/IIFH.html>.

### **Mentor/Mentee Program in Humanities, Arts, Cultural Studies and Social Sciences**

Pairs graduate student mentors with second year undergraduates in the humanities and social sciences to introduce students to academic research and build research and analytical skills. This will prepare undergraduate students to approach and work with professors, or pursue an independent research project or honors thesis. <http://urc.ucdavis.edu/programs/mmphss.html>.

### **MURPPS: Mentorships for Undergraduate Research Participants in Physical & Mathematical Sciences**

An undergraduate mentoring program designed to increase the number of underrepresented students who pursue graduate studies in the physical and mathematical sciences by offering students the chance to work with professors on research projects relevant to their major. Includes stipend and professional development activities. <http://urc.ucdavis.edu/programs/murpps.html>.

**Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research** - Each year, a graduating senior who has completed outstanding research, scholarship or creative activities at UC Davis is awarded (plaque and \$500) at the Chancellor's Award Reception and at commencement ceremonies. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 5 p.m. [http://urc.ucdavis.edu/awards/chancellors\\_award/index.html](http://urc.ucdavis.edu/awards/chancellors_award/index.html)

**Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research** - Each year a faculty member is awarded this prestigious award to recognize the importance and profound impact on students. There is also an award recognizing a postdoc/graduate student for excellence in mentoring undergraduate research. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 5 p.m. [http://urc.ucdavis.edu/awards/chancellors\\_award/index.html](http://urc.ucdavis.edu/awards/chancellors_award/index.html)

**Provost's Undergraduate Fellowship (PUF)** - Provides funding to cover research costs for undergraduate students doing research or creative projects under the guidance of UC Davis faculty members. Students from all discipline areas are eligible to apply. The maximum award is up to \$1,800 toward approved costs directly related to the project (no stipends). The deadline for applications are Tuesdays, November 6, 2018 and April 16, 2019. <http://urc.ucdavis.edu/awards/puf/index.html>.

**Norma J. Lang Prize for Undergraduate Information Research** - Sponsored by the library, awarded every year to undergraduate students in each of these two areas: (1) Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences as well as (2) Science, Engineering and Math. Types of entries accepted include creative works, empirical research, and interpretive analysis. Submission deadline is April 8, 2019. <https://www.library.ucdavis.edu/news/langprize/>

### **Undergraduate Research Publication Award - *New in 2018!***

The URC has a new award to recognize the accomplishments of undergraduate students who publish their faculty-sponsored UC Davis research in a peer-reviewed journal. Up to 2 undergraduate students who have co-authored a research paper will be selected. Submission deadline is Wednesday April 10, 2019. <http://urc.ucdavis.edu/awards/>

**Undergraduate Travel Award** - The URC provides travel awards (up to \$500) to help undergraduate students pay for their registration fees, travel, etc, when presenting their research at a conference. Deadline dates for applications: Tuesdays November 6, 2018; Feb 5 and April 16, 2019. [http://urc.ucdavis.edu/awards/travel\\_awards/index.html](http://urc.ucdavis.edu/awards/travel_awards/index.html).