

## 5 Steps to Undergraduate Research



### Researching Labs Online:

Browse the various college or departmental pages that pertain to your major and/or interests. We recommend that you identify 5-6 professors, people, labs, or projects that resonate with you. Links to the colleges can be found below:

- [College of Agriculture](#)
- [College of Business](#)
- [Walter Scott Jr. College of Engineering](#)
- [College of Health and Human Sciences](#)
- [College of Liberal Arts](#)
- [Warner College of Natural Resources](#)
- [College of Natural Sciences](#) (see links under “Find a Research Opportunity in our Departments)
- [College of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences](#) (see [CVMBBS Research Day](#) recent posters)

### Emailing Faculty:

If you want to engage in research with a specific faculty member, you can send them an email directly. It is perfectly ok to email a faculty member you’ve never met before. It can be hard to know. We recommend the following:

- Do some background research on the faculty member you plan to email. What is their general research focus? What projects are they working on? What have they published lately? What methods and techniques do they use?
- Your email should be a short paragraph, no more than 4-6 sentences. You want to include enough detail for faculty to be interested in working with you but remember to keep it short and easy to read.
- You may have to reach out to multiple faculty members before securing a meeting with one. This is normal! We recommend reaching out to one faculty member at a time – this will help ensure you do not overcommit.
- Be sure to include any relevant experiences you'd had such as volunteer or community work, a high school project, an international trip, or anything else that relates to your research interest.
- You can attach a resume to your email if you like. However, this is not necessary.



## **Meeting with a Faculty Mentor:**

It's very normal to be nervous about your first meeting with a potential faculty mentor. Happily, many students find that these meetings are informal and that the faculty mentors are very supportive of your interests, even if they don't have a space for you on their research team.

If this is the case, these meetings can become excellent networking opportunities. If a faculty member is not available to mentor you directly, they often help you identify other potential mentors with related work! If this meeting does lead to a place a research team, we recommend you discuss the following:

- Lab expectations and protocols
- Number of hours a week or month you plan to work
- Communications preferences of your mentor (email, text, frequency of communication, etc.)

## **Additional Resources:**

1. The National Science Foundation offers students in the STEM fields many opportunities to become involved in paid summer research through its Research Experience for Undergraduates program. To learn more about these opportunities, go to:
  - a. [Search for an REU Site | NSF – National Science Foundation](#)
2. The National Institute of Standards and Technology also has a summer internship program for students called SURF. You can find more information about SURF here:
  - a. [Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship \(SURF\)](#)
3. Our office also has a listserv where we periodically advertise different research opportunities. To subscribe, go to:
  - a. [OURA-undergraduateresearch – Info Regarding Undergraduate Research Programs](#)

