

Mentoring Undergraduate Student Research

Gina Hunter, PhD
Director, Office of Student Research

Associate Professor of Anthropology,
Department of Sociology and Anthropology




**OFFICE OF
STUDENT RESEARCH**
Illinois State University



Mission of Office of Student Research

- Facilitate faculty-mentored student research through outreach, workshops, and events.
- Support student research through funding and dissemination opportunities
- Highlight exemplary student research faculty mentorship

What is Undergraduate Research at Illinois State?



Faculty-mentored student inquiry or investigation that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline

Based on definition from **The Council of Undergraduate Research**





Student Research activities include:

- ▶ **Mentorship.** A serious, collaborative interaction between the faculty mentor and student, in which the student is intellectually engaged in the scholarly problem or project
- ▶ **Originality.** The student makes a meaningful and authentic contribution to the scholarly problem or project, and the work must be entirely or partially novel
- ▶ **Acceptability.** Employing techniques and methodologies that are appropriate and recognized by the discipline with a problem or project that includes a reflective and synthetic component
- ▶ **Dissemination.** Includes a final tangible product for which both the process and results are peer-reviewed, juried, or judged in a manner consistent with disciplinary standards
 - ▶ (Osborn and Karukstis 2009)

Mentoring is not (only) teaching.





Ten salient practices of undergraduate research mentors (Shananhan et al 2015)

Practice 1: **Pre-plan** strategically to respond to students' **varying needs** and abilities throughout the research process.

Practice 2: **Set** clear, scaffolded **expectations**.

Practice 3: **Teach** the technical **skills**, methods, and techniques of conducting research in the discipline.

Practice 4: **Balance** rigorous **expectations with emotional support** and appropriate personal interest in students.

Practice 5: **Build** a sense of **community** among members of the research team.

Practice 6: **Dedicate time to one-on-one**, hands-on mentoring.

Practice 7: **Increase student ownership** of the research over time.

Practice 8: **Support** students' **professional development** through networking and explaining norms of the discipline.

Practice 9: **Create** intentional, laddered **opportunities for peers** and 'near peers' **to learn mentoring** skills and to bring larger numbers of undergraduates into scholarly opportunities.

Practice 10: Encourage and **guide students to share findings** in presentations and writing.



Upcoming Opportunities

Undergraduate Research Support Program

and

Undergraduate International Research Support Program (co-sponsored by OISP)

Summer Research Fund (\$5000) – Deadline Jan 31, 2020

Academic Year Research Funds (\$2500/\$3000) - Deadline April 3, 2020

Image of Research Competition

Submissions accepted, Jan 19-Feb 19th

Exhibition and Reception, March 19, 2020

Undergrad Awards (1st, 2nd, Honorable Mention, Peoples' Choice)

Graduate Awards (1st, 2nd, Honorable Mention, Peoples' Choice)

➤ <https://studentresearch.illinoisstate.edu/funding/>



Benefits of Undergraduate Research (UR)

For students:

- Enhances student learning through mentoring relationships with faculty
- Develops critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, and intellectual independence
- Develops an understanding of research methodology
- Increases enrollment in graduate education and provides effective career preparation

For faculty:

- Enhances teaching, creates synergies between grad and undergrad programs, and integrates scholarship and teaching
- Advances a research program, offers new perspectives
- Increases job satisfaction and personal development

For institutions:

- Increases retention and graduation in academic programs
- Creates an innovation culture

(Lopatto 2010)



Sources

- ▶ Lopatto, David. 2010. Undergraduate Research as a High-Impact Student Experience. *Peer Review*, Spring 2010:12(2). <https://www.aacu.org/publications-research/periodicals/undergraduate-research-high-impact-student-experience>
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- ▶ Shanahan, Jenny Olin, Elizabeth Ackley-Holbrook, Eric Hall, Kearsley Stewart, and Helen Walkington. 2015. "Ten Salient Practices of Undergraduate Research Mentors: A Review of the Literature." *Mentoring & Tutoring: Partnership in Learning* 23 (5): 359–376. doi:[10.1080/13611267.2015.1126162](https://doi.org/10.1080/13611267.2015.1126162).
- ▶ Walkington, Helen; Kearsley A. Stewart, Eric E. Hall, Elizabeth Ackley and Jenny Olin Shanahan. 2019. Salient practices of award-winning undergraduate research mentors – balancing freedom and control to achieve excellence, *Studies in Higher Education*, DOI: [10.1080/03075079.2019.1637838](https://doi.org/10.1080/03075079.2019.1637838)