Mentoring Undergraduate Student Research

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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


