

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM DIVISION



The Undergraduate Research Program Division (URPD) serves and supports the needs of faculty and administrators who direct UR programs on their campuses. Our membership includes directors of new and established programs at diverse institutions, programs that encompass a wide variety of disciplines from the sciences to the performing arts, and programs that bridge traditional academic boundaries. This Division promotes networking amongst Directors and staff to share ideas and resources, disseminate best practices, and organize workshops and Institutes.

GOALS OF THE URP DIVISION

The Undergraduate Research Programs Division is dedicated to fostering a culture of inquiry, innovation, and academic excellence. Our division coordinates and supports a variety of research initiatives, opportunities, and resources tailored specifically to the needs and interests of campus programs.

We aim to:

- Provide mentorship and guidance to undergraduate students interested in pursuing research across diverse disciplines.
- Facilitate access to research funding, resources, and facilities to support student-led projects.
- Organize workshops, seminars, and conferences to enhance students' research skills, critical thinking abilities, and presentation capabilities.
- Foster interdisciplinary collaboration and networking opportunities for undergraduate researchers.
- Promote the dissemination of undergraduate research findings through publications, conferences, and other scholarly platforms.
- Cultivate a supportive and inclusive research community that values diversity, equity, and ethical conduct.

THE IMPORTANCE OF UR AT INSTITUTIONS

Undergraduate research plays a pivotal role in shaping the academic and professional development of students, offering them invaluable opportunities to explore and contribute to knowledge within their fields of study. Engaging in undergraduate research empowers students to apply theoretical concepts learned in the classroom to real-world problems, fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Through hands-on research experiences, students not only deepen their understanding of their discipline but also cultivate a passion for inquiry and discovery. Furthermore, undergraduate research enhances students' competitiveness for graduate school admissions and career opportunities, equipping them with the skills and confidence needed to excel in their chosen fields. Overall, undergraduate research serves as a cornerstone of experiential learning, enriching the educational journey and preparing students to become future leaders and innovators in academia and beyond.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE DIVISION

We encourage you to become involved in the URP division. Here are a few ways you can join the community:

- If a CUR member, join the online community forum called, "Undergraduate Research Programs" to have discussions with other division members.
- Make sure your CUR Account Profile is updated stating your primary division is URP.
- During CUR's election cycle, run for a division representative position.
- Subscribe to URPD's news by visiting their division page on CUR.org.
- Reach out to any URPD member and ask questions. The elected leaders are listed on the division page on CUR.org.