

How to get Involved in Undergraduate Research

A Step-by-Step Guide

Research at Weber State

1. Pick a subject/area of interest. Keep in mind that research requires a lot of time and effort, so you will want to choose something that you are excited about.
 - a. Start with your major (or possibly your minor)
 - b. Think of classes you have taken (and done well in), or are currently taking, that you find interesting.
 - c. You want to start sooner than later, don't put it off! **Talk to professors just before Thanksgiving for spring semester research and just after spring break for summer/fall research.** If you wait until the beginning of the semester, it's likely that spots will be filled. **Get started on your research ASAP (sophomore/junior year)**, do NOT put it off.
 - d. You can receive upper division credit for the research you do (one credit per semester), however, you also have the option of conducting research without receiving credit.
2. Pick a professor to work with. It's important to see professors as approachable, while they are professionals, they are real people as well, and many of them want to work with students. However, they won't know that you're interested (or even who you are in some cases) unless you ask questions in class, talk with them, and show genuine interest in their work (genuine interest is extremely important!! Most active faculty have personal web pages that are research related. Do your homework, know what the faculty members are doing, why their projects are important, and why the certain area interests you. "I have to do research for my med school application, so can I do it with you?" - this is NOT a genuine interest in their work and can be the fastest way to getting told no). Also don't be afraid of office hours, make yourself known!
 - a. Perform to your best ability in the professor's class. Professors want to work with trustworthy and hardworking students, show them that you are a great candidate for research.
 - b. You can obtain funding for your project through the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR). You must be working under a professor to be considered.

Research Outside of Weber State

1. You can get paid to be a research assistant for a research/clinical trials, or as a summer research assistant at the University of Utah. Keep in mind that if you choose to do research as an employee, you will need to commit to a certain number of hours per week (just like a regular job). Here are the links to available summer programs and jobs:
 - a. <https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/>
 - b. <http://www.bioscience.utah.edu/affiliated-research-programs/summer-undergraduate.php>
 - c. <https://www.jeanbrownresearch.com/careers/>
 - i. If you cannot find something that interests you locally, or are looking for something adventurous, summer research through the National Science Foundation may be a good option for you. They have some very unique research projects underway nationwide. Often, they will even provide housing and a stipend for students who want to get involved. You can learn more on their website: <https://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/>