Undergraduate Research Experience - 491

Get course credits when doing research. Register for a 491 course:
- You can do research fall, spring or summer
- Be prepared to invest 4-10 hours per week (your faculty mentor will talk to you how much they expect)
- Course credits: 0 or variable credits

Research is many things:
- Research is considered an inquiry-based approach to generate new knowledge
- Research gives you the opportunity to integrate, apply and reflect on the knowledge you obtain in the classroom
- You can work on answering a question, solving a problem or improving a design or procedure
- The type of research you do (lab-based; literature based; designing/building etc.) will depend on the department you are doing research in

There are many benefits to doing research:
- Receive hands-on training outside the classroom
- Learn marketable skills
- Work independently or in a group
- Work one-on-one with faculty and/or graduate students
- Get to know faculty mentor(s), graduate students and peers
- May co-author papers
- May attend conferences
- Get to know the field - find out whether you are passionate about this field
- Try different fields of study
- Learn time management
- Learn to evaluate, analyze and interpret data
- Learn critical thinking
- Learn to problem solve
- Get stronger letters of recommendation from faculty who know you well

Contact your department or faculty advisor to learn more.
- Once you have identified a faculty mentor - remember to fill out “request for approval to take 491” form
- Link to general 491 application form: https://www.tamug.edu/admissions/Forms/491_Research_Form.pdf
  Please note: your department may have departmental specific 491 forms or applications procedures. Make sure you contact your department and departmental advisors for further information.

Contact chair of undergraduate research to learn more:
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