

# 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](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:

Dr. Lene H. Petersen: [petersel@tamug.edu](mailto:petersel@tamug.edu) **OR** [undergraduateresearch@tamug.edu](mailto:undergraduateresearch@tamug.edu)