

Undergraduate Research FAQs

1. Does TAMUG UGR offer funding for research?

Yes. Students interested in participating in research through a 491, or the Undergraduate Research Scholars program are eligible to apply for scholarship funding through several scholarship programs available to students. Please visit: [Funding Opportunities at TAMUG](#) for more information.

If you are currently a LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Scholar, you have exclusive access to apply for a travel award or poster voucher to fulfill the presentation requirement for the program. Please email undergraduateresearch@tamug.edu for more information.

Students can use the [Texas A & M University LAUNCH Database of Undergraduate Research Opportunities](#) to search for internal and external funding.

Students are also encouraged to talk to members in their colleges and departments for additional opportunities.

2. What does “undergraduate research mean”?

There is substantial room for flexibility with research. At TAMUG, research opportunities are open to all undergraduates, and you **do not** have to be an honors student. Research is often a collaborative effort between undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty using an inquiry-based approach to generate new knowledge. As such, undergraduate research qualifies as a “high-impact practice,” providing students an opportunity to integrate, apply, and reflect on their knowledge. ***Research allows students to take learning beyond the classroom.***

3. What are the benefits of undergraduate research?

Students who participate in undergraduate research gain many skills that they might not otherwise acquire from classroom instruction:

- Writing, data collection, and analysis
- Teamwork, problem solving, time management, and effective communication

Undergraduate researchers gain a deeper understanding of their chosen field not only by actively participating in it, but through mentoring relationships with faculty and graduate students.

Undergraduate research helps students clarify career goals by identifying passions and a better perspective on what it means to be a professional in the field.

As a result, student researchers are more likely to be satisfied with their undergraduate education and continue on to graduate or professional school. Research experience strengthens applications for graduate and professional schools, business, or industrial positions by expanding technical skills and professional knowledge, improving resumes/CVs, and providing opportunities for strong letters of recommendation.

Finally, it is a lot of fun. Undergraduate researchers generate new knowledge, meet interesting people, and they might even get paid for doing it.

4. Do I have to do research in my department?

NO! Undergraduate research exists in every department at TAMUG in variable capacities. Students are not necessarily required to conduct research in their major department. Check with departmental advisors to verify degree requirements for undergraduate research. Students are encouraged to follow their passion and contact several faculty in their area of interest to explore opportunities.

5. What training do I need in order to do research?

There are many reasons why an undergraduate researcher might need training. You should have a conversation with your faculty advisor very early on in the design of your project to determine whether or not your project may require approval from the office of Research Compliance & Biosafety ([RCB](#)). Additional trainings may be required depending on the nature of your project.

6. What is the office of research compliance and biosafety?

The office of Research Compliance and Biosafety ([RCB](#)) is responsible for providing training and support to faculty, students, and staff in regulatory requirements for research. RCB provides administrative and operational support for Texas A&M's research compliance review committees as well as other research compliance programs designated at the university.

Projects may require approval through Research Compliance and Biosafety committees if they involve:

1. Human Subjects: Institutional Review Board (IRB)
2. Vertebrate Animals: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
3. Biohazards: Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

Note: Please be aware that if you are using social media and/or online content, you may be subject to review by the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

7. Is an undergraduate research scholars thesis the same as an honors thesis?

There is no "honors thesis," however, students participating in an honors program can use their Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) thesis as their capstone experience. The URS thesis is open to any undergraduate student regardless of whether they participate in

the University Honors Program, or departmental or college honors programs.

8. Can I earn honors credits for undergraduate research?

Please contact the TAMUG Honors Program Advisor Ms. Barbara Dover (doverb@tamug.edu) for more information.

9. Is undergraduate research the same as a capstone?

A capstone is defined as a year-long integrative experience that allows students to combine their career goals, majors, and interests in faculty-mentored independent projects that focus on leadership, research, community service, or teaching. Students in the honors programs can use the LAUNCH Undergraduate Research Scholars ([URS](#)) thesis program to fulfill their capstone requirement, or apply for a departmental capstone. Students should consult with their departmental and honors advisors to determine additional requirements and/or eligibility for capstone experiences.

10. How do I register for a research course 491?

Students need to speak to their home departments and/or faculty advisors to open a research section for a 491 course. 491 courses can be 0 credit or variable credit, and may carry either a letter grade or S/U designation. Students should consult the [Office of Financial Aid](#) to determine if registration in a research course affects financial aid packages or any scholarships.

For more information-Contact:
Chair of Undergraduate Research
Dr. Lene H. Petersen
Office: OCSB (Bldg. 3029) suite 252
Phone: (409) 740-4786
Email: petersel@tamug.edu OR
undergraduateresearch@tamug.edu



<https://www.tamug.edu/undergraduateresearch/index.html>