

Why Undergraduate Research Matters!



Jessica Stewart, Director of OURS

Student Panelists:

Kaitlyn Conner, Molecular & Cell Biology

Citlali Diaz, English

Cole Haddock, Geography

Jishan Jiang, Legal Studies

Nico Rowland, Physics

What is Research?

Defining Research

1) Research = generation of new knowledge

2) Generating new knowledge looks different in every field;

It can depend on:

- ❖ Object of Study (text, person, artwork, virus, astral phenomena, etc.)
- ❖ Field- or Discipline-specific Theories & Methodologies
- ❖ Whether it is undertaken by an individual or team
- ❖ Many other factors!

3) Research is a verb and a noun

- Verb - signifies process of discovery, active questions, critical inquiry
- Noun - signifies output, deliverable, public impact or finding

What is a Research University?

Defining the Research University

Cal is the #1 Public Research University

1) R1 = Carnegie Foundation classification for a university that spends a significant part of its budget on research expenditures, and confers a substantial number of doctoral degrees .

Why does this matter?

- ❖ Faculty and graduate students at Cal are actively engaged in research. They are pioneers who are shaping their fields of study.
- ❖ Being involved in research is, culturally speaking, the lowest common denominator. If you don't know what to talk about with a professor or GSI, you can always ask them about their research!

2) Major coursework prepares students for discipline-specific research.

- ❖ The research skills you are learning may not necessarily be identified for you, so it is important to always approach your studies critically. Ask yourself what are you learning, why are you learning it, and how can you apply it outside of the classroom.

Why do research as an Undergraduate?

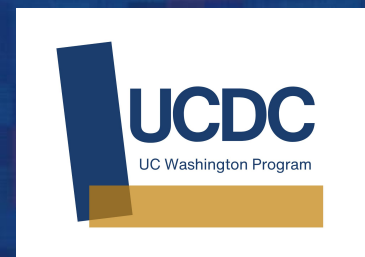
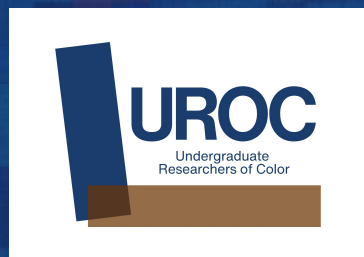
Finding Purpose through Research

- **Connect your academic studies with your extracurricular activities, personal experiences, and social commitments;**
- **Find a sense of purpose to guide your educational decision making;**
- **Learn who you are as a thinker and test out your aptitudes and discover where your passions and interests truly lie;**
- **Hone skills that matter in today's job market and in the pursuit of advanced study;**
 - critical thinking
 - creative problem solving
 - time management and organizational skills
 - tenacity and risk taking
 - collaboration and the ability to incorporate criticism
 - oral and written communication skills

Where to find research opportunities at Cal?



research.berkeley.edu



Discovery Opportunities Database

Grants, fellowships scholarships,
undergraduate research,
conferences, publications and more!

Subscribe to interests &
favorite opportunities!



Student Panel



Kaitlyn Conner

Major: MCB



Citlali Diaz

Major: English



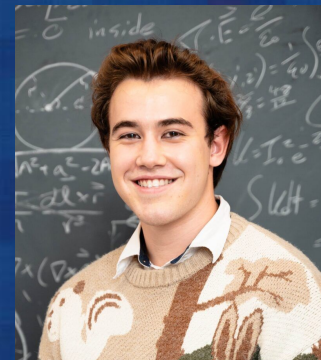
Cole Haddock

Major: Geography



Jishan Jiang

Major: Legal Studies



Nico Rowland

Major: Physics

INTRODUCTIONS

1. Name + Pronouns
2. Majors/Minors
3. Research Interests
4. Research Programs, Awards, Fellowships

Getting Started in Research

1. How did you first get involved in research?
2. How did you figure out what your research interests were?
3. How did your initial research experience evolve into other interests?

What Does Research in Different Disciplines Look Like?

*Research is both a noun (output) and verb (process).
Tell us about the process and products of your research.*

1. What does your daily research process look like?
2. What types of evidence or data do you work with?
3. What types of research outputs have you explored?

Research Impacts: Personal Transformation

1. Why is your research personal to you?
2. How do your research interests reflect or connect with who you are beyond the classroom?
3. What skills have you developed by doing research?

Research Impacts: Community Engagement

1. How did you find mentors? (And what advice do you have for students looking for mentors?)
2. How did you find others on campus who shared your interests?
3. What other relationships have you formed by getting involved in research?
4. UC Berkeley has a strong history of political activism, how has this campus identity informed the research you conduct as a student?
5. In an era of misinformation, what responsibility do researchers have to communicate their work effectively?

Questions from the Audience?

Energized by what you learned today?

Apply to become an Undergraduate Research Apprentice through URAP:

<https://research.berkeley.edu/urap/>

The application deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 2nd, at 4:00 p.m.

Sign up for the OURS Newsletter and get updates about program information sessions and deadlines sent directly to your inbox!