Getting Started in Research

How do I get started?

What is research?

Timeline

Who can help?

What’s Next

Where to begin?
Who is leading this workshop?

Undergraduate Research Support Office
- Sarah Russell, Ph.D., Director
- McCall Calloway, Program Coordinator

Directors of Academic Engagement (DAEs)
- Jules Odendahl-James, Ph.D.
  - Arts & Humanities
- Heather Settle, Ph.D.
  - Social Sciences
- Jessica Harrell, Ph.D.
  - Natural & Quantitative Sciences
Getting Started in Research

- How do I get started?
- What is research?
- Timeline
- Who can help?
- What’s Next
What is research?

Definition

Why do research?
What is research?

Research is the systematic production of (new) knowledge about some aspect of the world.

The methods and practices of research vary among academic disciplines, although the underlying objective is the same throughout: the search for meaning and discovery of new knowledge.

The work of research is inherently rigorous. Although project work can be creative, research is distinguished in that it not only can be creative, but it also involves the search for new knowledge, methods, and techniques, in addition to the application of known knowledge.
Why do research?

Valued skills for post graduate life

- Enhance Communication Skills
- Improve critical thinking & analytical reasoning
- Develop ethical judgement and decision-making
- Learn to work effectively in teams
- Strengthen self-motivation, initiative, and proactivity

Getting Started in Research

- How do I get started?
- What is research?
- Timeline
- Who can help?
- What's Next

Where to begin?
How do I get started?

- Duke Departments & Schools
- Mentors
- Lab-based Research
- Team-based Research
- Where to find opportunities
Find a mentor
AKA: Principal Investigator (PI)

How do I find someone?
- Departmental websites
- Lab websites
- Scholars@Duke
Lab Based Research

- Wet Lab, Dry Lab, or Combination
- Led by Principal Investigators (PIs)
  These faculty receive grants, direct labs, and collaborative projects
- post-docs and graduate students
  serve as bench mentors
- Many ways to find these opportunities
- How to Land a Lab Workshop
  - This weekend, Sept 5 & 6
Team-based Research

- Organized by PI or by a team of faculty
- Quantitative or qualitative methodologies
- Disciplinary specific or interdisciplinary
- Examples: Humanities Labs, Bass Connections, & various community engaged research initiatives throughout campus
There are many ways to find research opportunities, but you can find specific openings posted on these sites.

**Muser**
Opportunities posted at the beginning of each semester
Anonymously reviewed applications

**Duke List**
Opportunities posted year round
Getting Started in Research

- How do I get started?
- What is research?
- Timeline
- Who can help?
- What’s Next

Where to begin?
Terms of Undergraduate Research during COVID-19

If you are interested in a research opportunity this fall, please consult the principal investigator or supervisor to learn their requirements/protocols.

Only juniors, seniors, and those in paid work study positions will be eligible for laboratory-based research positions in the School of Medicine.

SEPTEMBER
- If pursuing independent research, consider methods and where you’ll conduct the research
- Attend Majors and Career Fairs
- Attend: “How to Land a Law School Scholarship”
- Consider fall research restrictions (via Keep Learning)!

EARLY DECEMBER
- Visit the Writing Center to get feedback on all writing and program applications
- Check to see if summer opportunities deadlines have passed. Some interesting ones may be closed.
- Summer programs may have been canceled or may have undergone major changes because of pandemic restrictions

DECEMBER - JANUARY
- Attend Summer Opportunities Fair
- Work on other summer program applications
- Apply for institutional financial aid (IFSA) prior to Fall classes
- Pursue an independent study project with human subjects
- Apply for WSP summer semester funding

FEBRUARY-MARCH
- Attend the Writing Symposium where you’ll find funding opportunities
- Attend departmental honors thesis defenses and learn about new techniques and research ideas from peers
- Attend the Writing Symposium where you’ll find funding opportunities
- Attend departmental honors thesis defenses and learn about new techniques and research ideas from peers

APRIL
- Attend the student Writing Symposium where you’ll find funding opportunities
- Attend departmental honors thesis defenses and learn about new techniques and research ideas from peers

MAY-JUNE
- Take a look back on the year and consider this year’s coursework and interests
- Make a plan for pursuing opportunities for next year
- Late May/Early June: summer research programs begin

JULY-AUGUST
- Touch base with an advisor as summer experiences may change plans

DUKE UNDERGRAD RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE
Terms of Undergraduate Research during COVID-19

If you are interested in a research opportunity this fall, please consult the principal investigator or supervisor to learn their requirements/protocols.

Only juniors, seniors, and those in paid work study positions will be eligible for laboratory-based research positions in the School of Medicine.

(KeepLearning.duke.edu 8/27/20)
Terms of Undergraduate Research during COVID-19

If you are interested in a research opportunity this fall, please consult the principal investigator or supervisor to learn their requirements/protocols.

Only juniors, seniors, and those in paid work study positions will be eligible for laboratory-based research positions in the School of Medicine.

### OCTOBER - NOVEMBER
- Contact college advisor to pick spring classes
- Make a DEE appointment to discuss opportunities
- Talk to current professors about research opportunities if you are interested in their field
- Sign up for workshops on Duke PRIDE (virtual office hours)
- Review available research opportunities and positions on Muse and Duke List
- Consider other opportunities

### DECEMBER - JANUARY
- Attend Summer Opportunities Fair
- Work on your final research program applications
- Apply for Institutional Research Board (IRB) approval at least one week before starting
- Search for opportunities in non-laboratory-based research positions
- Consider other opportunities

### APRIL
- Attend the 2021 Undergraduate Symposium where IRB, funding, and thesis defense students present
- Attend departmental seminars and presentation events and learn about new techniques and research ideas from peers
- Attend the Summer Research Symposium where IRB, funding, and thesis defense students present

### JULY-AUGUST
- Touch base with an Advisor as summer experiences may change your plans

### SEPTMBER
- Attend the Undergraduate Research Conference to present experiences in the context of COVID-19
- Attend the Undergraduate Research Conference to present experiences in the context of COVID-19
- Attend the Undergraduate Research Conference to present experiences in the context of COVID-19
- Attend the Undergraduate Research Conference to present experiences in the context of COVID-19
- Attend the Undergraduate Research Conference to present experiences in the context of COVID-19
20-21 CALENDAR FOR
DUKE UNDERGRAD RESEARCH

A tool to help you maximize campus research experiences in the context of COVID-19

SEPTEMBER
- If pursuing independent research, consider methods and where you'll conduct the research
- Attend Majors and Career Fairs
- Attend "How to Land a Lab" Workshop
- Consider fall research restrictions (via Keep Learning)

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER
- Contact College Advisor to pick spring classes
- Make a DAE appointment to discuss opportunities
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER
- Contact College Advisor to pick spring classes
- Make a DAE appointment to discuss opportunities
- Talk to current professors about research opportunities if you are interested in their field
  We suggest VLearn or dropping in for virtual office hours
- Look for spring research positions on Muser and Duke List
- Consider Winter Opportunities

EARLY DECEMBER
- Visit the Writing Center to get feedback on job letters and program applications
- Check to see if summer opportunities deadlines are posted, save interesting ones
- Be mindful that summer programs may have been changed and may further change because of pandemic restrictions

DECEMBER - JANUARY
- Attend Summer Opportunities Fair
- Work on/submit Summer program applications

FEBRUARY-MARCH
Look for spring research positions on Muser and Duke List
-Consider Winter Opportunities

**DECEMBER - JANUARY**
- Attend Summer Opportunities Fair
- Work on/submit Summer program applications
- Apply for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval if you are pursuing an independent study project with human subjects
- Apply for URS spring semester funding

**FEBRUARY-MARCH**
- Make a DAE appointment to discuss opportunities
- Continue summer program applications
- Sophomores declare majors before spring break
- Look for summer & fall research positions on Muser and Duke List

**APRIL**
- Attend the Visible Thinking Symposium where URS-funded and honors thesis students present their research

**MAY-JUNE**
- Take a look back on the year and consider this year's coursework
APRIL

- Attend the Visible Thinking Symposium where URS-funded and honors thesis students present their research
- Attend departmental honors thesis and capstone events and learn about new techniques and research ideas from peers

MAY-JUNE

- Take a look back on the year and consider this year's coursework and interests
- Make a plan for pursuing opportunities for next year
- Late May/Early June summer research programs begin

JULY-AUGUST

- Touch base with an Advisor as summer experiences may change your plans
20-21 Calendar for Duke Undergrad Research

Terms of Undergraduate Research during COVID-19

If you are interested in a research opportunity this fall, please consult the principal investigator or supervisor to learn their requirements/protocols.

Only juniors, seniors, and those in paid work-study positions will be eligible for laboratory-based research positions in the School of Medicine.

September
- Attend a seminar on independent research, consider methods and where you’ll conduct the research.
- Attend Majors and Career Fairs.
- Attend “How to Land a Law School” workshop.
- Consider fall research restrictions via Keep Learning.

Early December
- Visit the Writing Center to get feedback on your written and program applications.
- Check to see if summer opportunities deadlines are posted. Some interesting opportunities may have been delayed due to human or programmatic changes because of pandemic restrictions.

December-January
- Attend Summer Opportunities Fair.
- Work on independent Summer program applications.
- Apply for institutional financial aid.
- Attend independent study sessions with human subjects.
- Attend research ethics session.

February-March
- Attend the Writing Workshop.
- Attend Majors and Career Fairs.
- Attend the Writing Center to get feedback on your written and program applications.
- Attend the Writing Workshop.
- Attend Majors and Career Fairs.
- Attend the Writing Center to get feedback on your written and program applications.

April
- Attend the Writing Workshop.
- Attend Majors and Career Fairs.
- Attend the Writing Center to get feedback on your written and program applications.

May-June
- Attend the Writing Workshop.
- Attend Majors and Career Fairs.
- Attend the Writing Center to get feedback on your written and program applications.

July-August
- Touch base with an Advisor in your major.
- Summer experiences may change your plans.

22.
Who can help?

- Arts & Humanities
- Natural & Quantitative Sciences
- Social Sciences
- URS Office
Arts & Humanities
Jules Odendahl-James

• PhD, Performance Studies;
• MFA, Directing (Theatre)
• Knowledgeable about arts and humanities majors as well as SHTEAM and medical humanities coursework & research.
• Co-directs Story+ and chairs the Benenson Awards in the Arts committee
• Helps students form, fund, and finesse research projects.
• Works to establish “portfolio thinking” so students connect coursework, research, & career goals.
• Directs plays & teaches in Theater Studies.
• Health Humanities Lab affiliated faculty.

• What is humanities research?
  • Can be applied, creative, or theoretical, involving archives, databases, or narratives.
  • Methods can be discipline specific but typically it is qualitative, focused on human action and interaction, representation and the construction of meaning.

• Where does humanities research happen?
  • Coursework in over 17 different departments/programs, esp. independent studies, capstones, honors theses.
  • 1:1 with faculty mentors.
  • In teams within Humanities Labs: such as Health Humanities Lab; WIRED! Lab; From Slavery to Freedom Lab or in summer programs like Story+.

• Why conduct humanities research?
  • It gives you an E.D.G.E.: Experience, Direction, Growth & Empathy.
  • It can be a ‘calling card’ for a variety of post-graduate opportunities in a wide array of industries (commercial, non-profit, governmental) or professional schools (law, medicine, business).
Natural & Quantitative Sciences
Jessica Harrell

- PhD, Cell & Developmental Biology
- Knowledgeable about STEM majors
- Helps students find research opportunities
- Helps students navigate lab culture
- Teaches a biomedical scientific literature class for first year students
- Background/interest in mentoring under-represented students in the sciences

Trinity College of Arts & Sciences
Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Evolutionary Anthropology, Mathematics, Physics, Neuroscience, Statistical Science

Nicholas School of the Environment
16 different research areas

Duke School of Medicine
24 Clinical and Basic Science Departments

- MAKE A LIST OF 10 FACULTY whose research you are interested in.
- Read abstracts and information on lab websites.
- Compose a concise email template – be specific in each email about what interests you in this particular faculty’s research.
- Send emails and set up zoom meetings.
- It is normal practice to talk to more than one faculty member at a time.
Trinity College of Arts & Sciences
Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Evolutionary Anthropology, Mathematics, Physics, Neuroscience, Statistical Science
Nicholas School of the Environment
16 different research areas

Duke School of Medicine
24 Clinical and Basic Science Departments
Natural & Quantitative Sciences
Jessica Harrell

- PhD, Cell & Developmental Biology
- Knowledgeable about STEM majors
- Helps students find research opportunities
- Helps students navigate lab culture
- Teaches a biomedical scientific literature class for first year students
- Background/interest in mentoring under-represented students in the sciences

Trinity College of Arts & Sciences
Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Evolutionary Anthropology, Mathematics, Physics, Neuroscience, Statistical Science

Nicholas School of the Environment
16 different research areas

Duke School of Medicine
24 Clinical and Basic Science Departments

- **MAKE A LIST OF 10 FACULTY** whose research you are interested in.
- **Read** abstracts and information on lab websites.
- **Compose a concise email template** – be specific in each email about what interests you in this particular faculty’s research.
- **Send emails** and set up zoom meetings.
- It is **normal practice** to talk to more than one faculty member at a time.
Social Sciences
Heather Settle, Ph.D.

Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology
Teaches courses in Cultural Anthropology, ICS, and Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies
Knowledgeable about majors, research and extra curricular opportunities in the Social Sciences

What is Social Science research?

Which disciplines are included?

- Cultural Anthropology
- Economics
- Education
- History
- International Comparative Studies
- Linguistics
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology & Neuroscience
- Public Policy
- Sociology
Social Sciences
Heather Settle, Ph.D.

Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology
Teaches courses in Cultural Anthropology, ICS, and Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies
Knowledgeable about majors, research and extra curricular opportunities in the Social Sciences

What is Social Science?

Which disciplines are:
- Cultural Anthropology
- Economics
- Education
- History
- International Commerce
Social Sciences
Heather Settle, Ph.D.

Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology
Teaches courses in Cultural Anthropology, ICS, and Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies
Knowledgeable about majors, research and extra curricular opportunities in the Social Sciences

What is Social Science research?

Which disciplines are included?
- Cultural Anthropology
- Economics
- Education
- History
- International Comparative Studies
- Linguistics
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology & Neuroscience
- Public Policy
- Sociology
What is Social Science research?

Which disciplines are included?
- Cultural Anthropology
- Economics
- Education
- History
- International Comparative Studies
- Linguistics
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology & Neuroscience
- Public Policy
- Sociology
What is Social Science research?
How do Social Science researchers recruit undergraduates?
Application/Deadline Based Advertised Opportunities DIY
“Through my research with the Department of Political Science here at Duke, I was able to assist with a study on congressional coalitions that is currently on its way to publication, and my mentor helped me write a paper of my own that I was later able to present at a political science conference. My positive research experience at Duke has inspired me to pursue a career as a political scientist, eager to continue studying the questions of voter behavior and democratization that I began working with right here on campus.”

Darren Janz, 2023

“Through my research at Duke, I learned about the ways in which research can be used as a tool to advocate for marginalized communities that are often overlooked. Research has the power to change the lives of individuals on a daily basis but also systemically...”

Gabrielle Battle, 2023
Social Sciences
Heather Settle, Ph.D.

Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology
Teaches courses in Cultural Anthropology, ICS, and Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies
Knowledgeable about majors, research and extra curricular opportunities in the Social Sciences

What is Social Science research?

Which disciplines are included?
- Cultural Anthropology
- Economics
- Education
- History
- International Comparative Studies
- Linguistics
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology & Neuroscience
- Public Policy
- Sociology
• Promotes and supports undergraduate research experiences at Duke

• Provides grants to individual students for research
  • Independent Study
  • Assistantships
  • Conferences

• Awards **Deans’ Summer Research Fellowship**

• Organizes and hosts the annual **Visible Thinking Undergraduate Research Symposium**

• Funds **Biological Summer Research Fellowship (BSURF)**
Director:
Sarah Russell, Ph.D.

Program Coordinator:
McCall Calloway
• Promotes and supports undergraduate research experiences at Duke

• Provides grants to individual students for research
  • Independent Study
  • Assistantships
  • Conferences

• Awards Deans’ Summer Research Fellowship

• Organizes and hosts the annual Visible Thinking Undergraduate Research Symposium

• Funds Biological Summer Research Fellowship (BSURF)
Getting Started in Research

- How do I get started?
- What is research?
- Timeline
- Who can help?
- What’s Next

Where to begin?

Duke Academic Advising Center
Duke Undergraduate Research Support Office
What’s Next?

Learn More
COVID Considerations
Reach Out
Questions
Learn more...

Register & attend the **How to Land a Lab Workshop** on Saturday or Sunday @ 1:00 p.m. 
undergraduateresearch.duke.edu

**Make an appointment** with a DAE, schedule online: advising.duke.edu

Attend upcoming **discipline specific workshops**

The **URS Website**
Managing COVID-19

- Your search may be more challenging - space is at a premium
- There is plenty of time
- There are remote opportunities
- Think about creative contexts for research

Keep up with notices at returnto.duke.edu
Feel free to reach out!

URS Office: ursoffice@duke.edu

DAEs: advising.duke.edu

We’re happy to help.
Questions?

Please submit questions through chat

If we're unable to get to your question, don't hesitate to reach out directly afterwards.
Getting Started in Research

- How do I get started?
- What is research?
- Timeline
- Who can help?
- What's Next