How do I get started in Science Research?

When should I start research?
Make sure you can handle the science class load before you start research. If your first year is successful, then start your second year. You can, however, start looking for labs during your first year.

How can I start research if I have no experience and don’t have a research project?
Getting involved in research is like trying to obtain a job. You have to identify areas of research you are interested in and find potential faculty mentors to work with. Many students begin undergraduate research at UCLA by enrolling in the Student Research Program (SRP). You identify a faculty mentor, work 3+ hours/week in the lab and receive 1-2 units.

How do I find a faculty mentor to work with?
- Make a list of subjects you find most interesting
- Look at faculty websites by visiting
  - your major’s departmental website
  - https://www.uclaaccess.ucla.edu/faculty.aspx
  - http://www.research.ucla.edu/faculty/
- Make a list of 5-10 faculty that interest you
- E-mail all potential faculty mentors
  - Formal “cover letter” style
  - Attach curriculum vitae (CV)
  - See http://www.ugresearchsci.ucla.edu/findmentor.htm for details & samples
- Interview for a position
- Start research!

More questions?
Contact the Undergraduate Research Center:
Office: Life Science Building, room 2121
Phone: 310-794-4227
E-mail: urcsem@lifesci.ucla.edu
The URC-Sciences offers a variety programs to aid students in achieving academic and research goals.

### Programs to Get You Started in Research

**Student Research Program**
Earn honors research credit by enrolling in SRP (Course 99) during the academic year or summer.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/srpinfo.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/srpinfo.htm)

**Biomedical Science Enrichment Program**
Intensive 6-week summer program for freshmen interested in research-based science careers. Includes Biotechnology lecture and lab, and instruction in reading, writing and presenting science.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/bisep.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/bisep.htm)

**CARE Fellows/Scholars**
The CARE Fellows & Scholars Programs provide financial support ($875-$1500 per quarter) for working 12 hours per week in a research lab. Applications available every quarter.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/care.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/care.htm)

**URFP**
Apply in the fall for the $2000 Undergraduate Research Fellows Program award in the winter and spring quarters.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/urfp.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/urfp.htm)

**UC LEADS**
Prestigious undergraduate fellowships that provide funding for two years of research at UCLA and travel to other UCs for summer research.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/uleads.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/uleads.htm)

### Opportunities for Advanced Student Researchers

**Clare Boothe Luce Scholars**
Aims to support undergraduate women majoring in chemistry, physics and astrophysics for two years. Scholarship up to $8,000 per year.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/luce.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/luce.htm)

**URSP**
The Undergraduate Research Scholars Program provides $3000-$5000 scholarships for juniors and seniors conducting Honors Thesis research.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/ursp.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/ursp.htm)

**Amgen Scholars**
The Amgen Scholars Program is a full-time summer research experience for 24 students committed to pursuing a career in science or engineering.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/AmgenScholars.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/AmgenScholars.htm)

**Undergraduate Science Journal**
Publish original research and review articles. Get involved in reviewing, editing and laying out articles by joining the editorial board.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/usj.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu/usj.htm)

### Conferences & Opportunities to Present your Research

**Clay Lab**
Help high school students explore the world of scientific research through teaching molecular biology experiments.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu-citylab.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu-citylab.htm)

**CityLab**
Present your research at UCLA’s largest research symposium in May.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu-confspd.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu-confspd.htm)

**CUR/NCUR/SCCUR**
Present a poster on Capitol Hill, at a national conference, or at a local conference. The Council on Undergraduate Research offers many conferences for you to attend.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu-conf.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu-conf.htm)

**SACNAS/ABRCMS**
The Society for Advancement of Chicanos & Native Americans in Science Conference
[www.sacnas.org](http://www.sacnas.org)
The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students
[www.abrcms.org](http://www.abrcms.org)

**Travel Grant**
Need money to attend a conference? $300 in funding is available to those who qualify.
[www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu-travelgrant.htm](http://www.ugreasearchsci.ucla.edu-travelgrant.htm)