

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH PROGRESS

1. Connect with a Mentor

You will begin your undergraduate research experience by choosing a mentor who will help to guide you through the process.

If you need to find a faculty mentor, information on the website is available for [how to get started](#)

Once you have chosen a mentor, you will decide on a course of action together. A good place to start is with a [research learning agreement](#)

2. Complete Relevant Training or Certifications

One initial step is to learn about ethical standards that must be adhered to when conducting research. Complete the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training course. This is an online self-enrolled Canvas course designed for undergraduate students interested and involved in research. This step can be completed first if you are still investigating your interests and finding a mentor.

To enroll in the course, follow these steps:

1. Go to my.msstate.edu and scroll down to the bottom of the page.
2. Under the "classroom" section, the "canvas course self-enrollment" box is located on the right-hand side. Click on "find a course" and choose responsible conduct of research training for undergraduate students.
3. Click the sliding tab that says "self-enroll, yes/no" and mark "yes" and then "confirm".
4. Go to canvas.msstate.edu to confirm the course is available to you on the dashboard.

In addition, there may be certain required trainings (e.g. human subjects) which will vary by department and topic, so talk with your mentor about the training or certification you may need to complete. Learn more about the [Office of Research Compliance and Security and check training status](#).

Your research project may benefit from meeting with a subject librarian at the Mississippi State University Libraries. The librarians can help you identify relevant research resources and library services. To find a subject librarian and request a meeting, visit: <https://www.library.msstate.edu/directory/subject-specialists>

3. Continue Building Your Knowledge and Skillset & Explore National Organizations and Student Memberships

While conducting your research, you will continue to build on your current knowledge and skillset. Maintain communication with your mentor about different ways to engage over the course of your research project and plan goals for your progress. This is also a great time to explore [URCD student resources](#).

Joining organizations is a great way to become further involved in your field of research and to connect with fellow undergraduate students and researchers. Student memberships are often available at a reduced rate. Your research mentor can help you identify professional research organizations in your field.

Make sure you add your research activities (and any presentations) to your resume. Some examples can be found [here](#).

4. Present Your Research at the Undergraduate Research Symposium or a Similar Event

Presenting your research at a student symposium is a great way to display your work and to receive quality feedback. Consider attending and presenting at the Undergraduate [Research Symposium or Showcase](#) where students exhibit their research via a poster session or an oral presentation.

Think about continuing your research for the completion of an honors thesis or a capstone project. There are also opportunities for undergraduate students to present their work at regional and national conferences and sometimes to even publish their work! Discuss options with your mentor.

5. Reflect on your experience by Completing the Bulldog Experience Reflection

Once you have completed your research project, you should complete the [Bulldog Experience reflection](#) in which you will reflect on your time conducting undergraduate research. Please fill out the form [here](#).