

# HOW TO FIND RESEARCH

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO HELP YOU FIND AND SECURE  
THAT RESEARCH SPOT IN THE SCIENCES!



This is a guide to help you look and apply for undergraduate research.

*Hetzer Center for Biomedical Sciences*

**The following is a good step by step guide to help you navigate the process of finding and securing undergraduate research.**

What you should know before you begin



Search online to find Faculty that interest you

Contacting faculty for a meeting

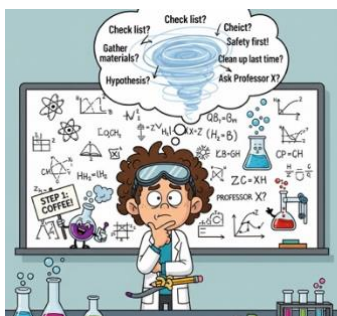


Preparing for the meeting and questions to ask



**What to do when you when you get that research spot**





## What you should know before you begin

- 1) **Anyone can do research, freshman to senior. Do not limit yourself because you think a professor might not take you. Put yourself out there and see what happens.**
- 2) **Find something that is similar to your interests, but it does not have to be an exact match. It might be difficult to find a project that matches your exact interest. It is the experience that is most important.**
- 3) **Don't let your grades determine if you should apply. Faculty have different criteria for what a student should have to be in their lab.**
- 4) **Understand that when you are looking for research it will most likely start the following semester. Research paperwork must be filled out before the third week of the semester.**
- 5) **Faculty are looking for students that are energetic and go getters, skills can be taught but attitude cannot. Be excited about doing research.**
- 6) **This is not like signing up for a class. You must go out and find that research spot. You will need to talk to faculty and maybe other students. Be prepared to engage in conversation about research.**
- 7) **Your major should not limit whom you look for in research. Faculty will take students that are not in their department.**



**[Search online to find Faculty that interest you](#)**

You will have to go out and look for these research spots. Here are a bunch of websites that will let you know about research on campus. You will have to click links on the faculty to learn about their research.

**This is a great place to look.**

**These faculty are doing research and want students**

**[University Research Listing](#)**

**[GUPTA Explore Research Website](#)**

**Have to dig a bit deeper, but check out the faculty**

**[Biology Department](#)**

**[Chemistry Department](#)**

**[Computing Sciences](#)**

**[Marine Sciences Department](#)**

**[Math Department](#)**

**[Physics and Engineering Department](#)**

**[Psychology Department](#)**



### Contacting faculty for a meeting

So now you have found one or more faculty that interest you. Time to email them to see if they have some space in their research projects. Let us list some important things to include in your email to help you get that meeting!

- 1) Start with your name and the purpose of your email. You are inquiring about their research projects.**
- 2) Write about which project you are interested in and why you are interested in that project. Make sure you have looked at their research info. If none given, just ask to meet with them to discuss their research.**
- 3) In the email list a bunch of times you are free in the next week and ask if any of them work for them.**
- 4) Tell them a little about yourself and why you are interested in doing research.**
- 5) Make the email professional. You are trying to interview for a position, treat it with respect and professionalism.**
- 6) Proofread your email before you send it. Make sure it makes sense and is addressed to the correct person.**



## Preparing for the meeting and questions to ask

Before you attend your meeting, you should do these things to get you ready for the meeting:

- 1) Read the latest publication from the research lab or their research website.
- 2) Read up about the professor
- 3) Make sure you are on time and prepared to talk
- 4) Be energetic and excited about this opportunity
- 5) Dress to impress, don't be casual. This is an interview.
- 6) Be prepared to answer questions!
- 7) Come prepared with questions about the research
- 8) Think about what your goals are for doing research.

Questions to consider:

- 1) What are the faculty members expectations for the student in this project?
- 2) What is the time commitment for this project?
- 3) What skills will I need to start this project? What skills will I learn if I do this project?
- 4) Will I be presenting this research at scientific conferences?
- 5) How often you students publish from your research team?
- 6) Look over the research and publications. Have some questions about the research? This helps show you have thought about you doing the research.
- 7) Think about what your goals are for doing this research and if this project will help you achieve those goals.



## What to do when you when you get that research spot

- 1) Be curious! Ask questions and learn the material. Do not just follow the directions. Understand why you are doing things.
- 2) Have a great time and enjoy the experience.
- 3) Learn as many lab procedures as you can. You never know if that will help you with your future.
- 4) Be patient. Training might take a while.
- 5) Make sure this experience is helping you achieve your goals.
- 6) Meet with your mentor as often as you can and learn from his/her wisdom.
- 7) Try to present your research at a conference or publish your research. This looks great on your resume.
- 8) Learn as much as you can!!

