A resource guide to find undergraduate research opportunities

**Step 1: Identify Your Interests:** Brainstorm broad research fields by:
- Reflecting on what scientific challenges you like
- Reading scientific articles
- Listening to podcasts of science news
- Subscribing to e-mail newsletters from scientific journals
- Following academics, journal and universities on social media
- Enrolling in Introductory courses to learn about the process

**Step 2: Contact faculty/lab that conducts research**
- Narrow down the list of faculty you wish to work with. Make sure to look at positions in multiple labs/majors/colleges.
- Reach out to multiple labs/faculty
- Email them with the following:
  - Name, Major, Year and Resume
  - Why their research interests you
  - What skills you have (if you are new to research, focus on motivation)
  - Express interest in setting up a meeting to hear more about their research

**Notes:**
- You can opt for research for credit or for pay, depending on the lab’s funding availability and your academic status. When reaching out to faculty, this might be another topic for discussion. Also, to enroll in research for credits, have a conversation with your departmental academic advisor for potential ways to incorporate the credits in your Plan of Study.

**Directed websites are hyperlinked:**

### i. *Purdue Centers and Institutes for Research:*
- Search by Keywords (example: “Implants”)
- Review the Institute’s website and the point-of-contact
- Take note of the range of disciplines of the researchers in the Center
- Review Project/Contact specific lab

### ii. *Engineering Undergraduate Research Office (EURO):*
- Look for keywords and identify faculty mentors in [SURF symposium abstracts](#)
- Review the [Undergraduate Research Opportunities at Purdue](#) listed on the EURO website
- [Engineering Simplicity portal](#) to apply for research positions
- A student video story: how to get involved in research

### iii. *Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR):*
- Use [OURConnect](#) portal to connect to research mentors across campus with open positions for undergraduates
- Spring and Fall Symposium: Learn more about Undergraduate Research; identify research groups which actively host undergraduate researchers

### iv. *Discovery Park Undergraduate Research Internship Program (DURI):*
- Take a look at [list of Projects currently available](#)

### v. *Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP):*
- Earn academic credit while engaging in team based research

### vi. *Departmental/Faculty Website*
- Some department have detailed website: search for faculty by research areas (fundamental vs. specific research areas)
- Some faculty have a detailed website: do your homework before approaching them
- Some faculty require you to submit a cover letter or resume to apply for a position in their lab; others may be less formal and simply arrange a meeting after an email dialogue
- If a faculty do not have a website: use Google Scholar/ ResearchGate/ LinkedIn etc. to find out more about their research before contacting them

### vii. Other relevant ways to find research opportunities:
- Instructors of courses you have enjoyed: ask about their research
- Graduate TAs in your field of interest: drop by office hours
- Events that promote UG research (open events): Attend Research Roundtable, Symposium, Research Seminars in departments as audience
- Talk to other students already engaged in research
- Contact Departmental Undergraduate Advisor