Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program
Vice Chancellor for Research
Information Session
Spring 2021
Highest Research Activity, or “Research 1”

- One of only 115 universities
- 77 out of 900 universities in extramural research funding
- Among world’s top universities for publications (71st in U.S)
- World-renowned faculty known for their research
- Financial & programmatic support for UG students to conduct research/creative work, including UROP
UROP coordinates and promotes opportunities for all undergraduate students across all disciplines at UH Mānoa to engage in faculty-mentored research and creative work.
Criteria of UG Research (Osborn & Karukstis, 2009; CUR)

1. Faculty-Mentored
2. Original/Authentic Inquiry
3. Disciplinarily-Appropriate Inquiry
4. Disseminated
UROP Research & Creative Work Examples
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Why Research & Creative Work?

- Meet degree requirements
- Get funding to do research & creative work
- Get valuable experience
- Enhance CV/resume
- Work with faculty/experts
- Inform/confirm your future
1) Connect students with opportunities on & off campus
2) Project & Presentation Funding
3) Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)
4) On campus Presentation Venues (SURE Symposium, Undergraduate Showcase)
Connecting students to Opportunities

- Find your next research/creative work opportunity via the **Student Opportunity Center**:
  - www.StudentOpportunityCenter.com
  - 1,000s of experiential learning opportunities:
    - Internships
    - Volunteer
    - Civic Engagement
    - Student Journals
    - Conferences
    - Funding
    - Co-ops

Student Opportunity Center
Finding a Faculty Mentor

- Get started NOW!
  - Consider your interests and take relevant courses
  - Get good grades!
  - Talk to your professors, academic advisors, other students, and UROP

- Present yourself to a potential faculty mentor
  - Be precise and detailed
  - Do your homework

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Education/Professional Prep/Appointments:
2002  Ph.D. Botany, University of Wyoming, Department of Botany, Laramie, Wyoming
1994  M.S. Forest Resources, School of Forest Resources, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina
1991  B.A. Environmental Studies, Emory and Henry College, Emory, Virginia

Currently Working on:
Projects: Please see https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/littonc/Research.aspx

Selected Courses Taught:
- NREM 480 Applied Forest Ecology
- NREM 680 Ecosystem Ecology
- NREM 682 Restoration Ecology
- BOT/NREM/ZOOL 690 Conservation Biology

Extension/Research Interests:
- Impacts of invasive species, land use change, and climate change on forest ecosystem structure and function
- Disturbance ecology of tropical forests
- Restoration of terrestrial ecosystem structure and function
- Carbon input, allocation and storage in terrestrial ecosystems
- Outdoor, immersive youth environmental education
Funding Opportunities

Project Funding
- Up to $5,000 for individuals
- Up to $10,000 for group
  - Spring Deadline: March 3 (2/2-3/3)
  - Fall Deadline: October 10 (9/9-10/10)

Presentation Funding
- Up to $2,000 for individuals
- Up to $5,000 for group ($4,000 for a group of two)
  - Monthly Deadline: 1st day of each month
UROP Eligibility – Funding

- Undergraduate student enrolled at UH Mānoa
- Plan to graduate from UH Mānoa
- Faculty Mentor (tenured/tenure track and/or Graduate Faculty at UHM)
- Project: At least one Fall or Spring semester remaining
Allowable Costs

UROP funds:
• All well-justified and necessary project- and presentation-related costs, including:
  - Materials & Supplies
  - Travel: Airfare, ground transportation, lodging, M&IE
  - Stipend: $11.65/hour, up to 20 hours/week

UROP does not fund:
• Tuition, training, workshops, etc.
Application Process

- Paperless, online application
- At least 2 UHM faculty members review Project and Presentation Funding Applications
  - Project: ~2 months to process/review
  - Presentation: ~1 month to process/review
Funding & Requirements

- Funds disbursed as financial aid via MyUH
- Research compliance - IRB/ IACUC/ EHSO/ IBC
- Memorandum of Agreement
- Completion Requirements
- Reversal of funds if project not completed
Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)

What is it?
• Free cohort-based program
• Series of bi-weekly professional development modules

Why participate?
• Meet peers, share ideas
• Build community, place
• Flexible

Resume and cover letter writing
Graduate school panel Q&A
Presentation best practices
Presentation Venues: SURE Symposium

- Open to ALL UG students at UHM to present and attend
- Professional, but relaxed setting
- Oral and poster sessions
- FREE
Presentation Venues: Undergraduate Showcase

- Open to ALL UG students at UHM to present and attend
- End of each Spring and Fall Semester
  - Spring: East-West Center
  - Fall: Sakamaki Hall
- Professional presentation experience in a formal, but relaxed setting
- Oral and poster sessions
- Free
Mānoa Horizons undergraduate journal

Get published!

Share your research, artwork, performances, creative writing, & more. We invite submissions from all fields of inquiry that push the horizons of academic scholarship in novel ways, such as an innovative approach to a problem, or a thought-provoking example of artistic expression.

Deadlines in January and May

Submit online at https://kahualike.manoa.hawaii.edu/horizons/

Questions? Contact us at horizons@hawaii.edu or (808) 956-8361
UROP: Core Programs/Activities

1) Student Opportunity Center
2) Project & Presentation Funding
3) Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)
4) On campus Presentation Venues (SURE Symposium, Undergraduate Showcase)
Why Research & Creative Work?

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Based on the requirements set by UROP, it has also prepared me in organizing my work. At least with writing a proposal and budget, these are skills that I will be able to take into the future of research with grant writing and requesting research funds.
Kayla Brignac, Global Environmental Science

I have always worked two jobs to put myself through school since I was 16. Receiving UROP funding enabled me to cut back on my work hours so I could do research. If I did not receive UROP funding, I probably would not have been able to complete this project.
For a long time, I had a silent doubt on whether research was something I wish to pursue. Doing this project alongside a lab that has been doing research was an eye-opening experience. I was able to figure out how to budget a project, and to figure out a schedule that would work for it. This real experience, coupled with doing the research itself, helped solidify my thoughts on research as something to pursue further in my life.
As far as UROP as a program, I really do believe that it is a unique and incredible tool for undergraduate scholars to gain the experience of applying for and receiving funding for a project and appreciate what the program is doing to encourage younger students to reach for something greater.
Follow us on social media

Follow our Instagram and Facebook page!
Questions? Let us know!

- Visit our website: manoa.hawaii.edu/urop
- Email us: UROP@hawaii.edu
- Call us: 808.956.7492
- Visit us: Moore Hall 107/108

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