Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program
Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship
General Information Session – Fall 2022
Highest Research Activity, or “Research 1”

- One of only 131 universities
- World-renowned faculty known for their research
- Among world’s top universities for publications (78th in U.S)
- 80th out of 900 universities in extramural research funding
- Financial & programmatic support for UG students to conduct research/creative work, including UROP
Mission

UROP coordinates and promotes opportunities for all undergraduate students across all disciplines at UH Mānoa to engage in faculty-mentored research and creative work.
A mentored investigation or creative inquiry conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or artistic contribution to knowledge.

- National Council on Undergraduate Research

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) **(New!) Entering Research and Creative Work (ERC) funding**
2) **Project & Presentation Funding**
3) **Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)**
4) **On campus Presentation Venues (SURE Symposium, Undergraduate Showcase)**
Entering Research and Creative Work (ERC) Funding (New!)

- $1,500 worth of stipend per semester or $3,000 for 2 consecutive semesters
- Fall Deadline: Oct 20 (9/20-10/20)
- Spring Deadline: April 20 (3/20-4/20)
Project Funding

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

Presentation Funding

• Up to $2,000 for individuals
• Up to $5,000 for groups ($4,000 for a group of two)
• Rolling Deadline (New!)
New! UROP will increase stipend from 11.65/hr to 15/hr

Allowable Costs (Project/Presentation Funding)

Materials & Supplies

Travel: Airfare, ground transportation, lodging, M&IE

Stipend: $15/hour, up to 20 hours/week

What UROP funds: All well-justified and necessary project- and presentation-related costs.

What UROP does not fund: Tuition, training, workshops, etc.
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/Spring semester or summer remaining
- ERC: Designed for students early in their academic careers who have more than 60 credits remaining in their bachelor’s degree program.
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

Litton, Creighton
Title: Professor
Email: litton@hawaii.edu
Phone No: 956-6004
Address: 1910 East-West Road
Location: SHER 240

Website: https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/littonc/Home.aspx

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
Required Training & Research Compliance

- Office of Research Compliance (ORC), UHM Environmental Health & Safety Office (EHSO), John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) EHSO
- Ensure research/creative work at UHM is performed safely, responsibly, and ethically
- All UROP students must work with their faculty mentor to satisfy all training & research compliance requirements prior to receiving any funding from UROP
Required Training & Research Compliance

RCR Training
- Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) online training module
  - Biomedical and Biological
  - Social and Behavioral
  - Physical Science
  - Humanities
  - Engineers

Safety Training/Checklist
- General Personnel Safety Checklist
- UHM EHSO Lab Safety Checklist
- JABSOM EHSO Lab Safety Personnel/Student Safety Checklist
- Field Research Safety Plan
Required Training & Research Compliance

- Research Compliance
  - Human studies - Institutional Review Board (IRB)
  - Vertebrate animal subjects - Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
  - Microorganisms, toxins, blood specimens, infectious agents - Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)

- Certification
  - Compressed gas diving - Diving Safety Program
Application Process

- Paperless, online application
- At least 2 UHM faculty members review ERC, Project, and Presentation Funding Applications
  - All applications take ~2 months to process/review
Funding & Requirements

- Funds disbursed as financial aid via MyUH
- 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
Presentation Venues: SURE Symposium

- Open to ALL UG students to present and attend
- Professional, but relaxed setting
- Oral and poster sessions
- FREE

SURE SYMPOSIUM

Summer Undergraduate Research Experience
Presentation Venues: Undergraduate Showcase

- Open to ALL UG students at UHM to present and attend
- End of each Spring and Fall Semester
- Professional presentation experience in a formal, but relaxed setting
- Oral and poster sessions
- Free
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://manoa.hawaii.edu/horizons/

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

1) (New!) Entering Research and Creative Work (ERC) funding
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.
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

UROP Staff
Director: Dr. Creighton M. Litton
Assistant Director: Seung Yang,
Program Coordinator: Elinor Cruz
UROP GA: Olivia Cornejo