Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program
Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship

Entering Research and Creative Work
Information Session (Fall 2022)
Highest Research Activity, or “Research 1”

- One of only 131 R1 universities
- World-renowned faculty known for their research
- 80th out of 900 universities in extramural research funding
- Among the top 2% in more than 26,000 colleges and universities worldwide in the rankings
- 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.
Research & Creative Work Defined

“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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UROP: Core Programs/Activities

1) **Entering Research & Creative Work (ERC) Funding**
2) Project Funding
3) Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)
4) On campus Presentation venues (SURE Symposium, Undergraduate Showcase)
5) Presentation Funding
Entering Research and Creative Work (ERC)

**What is it?**
- Funding for early career undergraduate students to be introduced to faculty-mentored research or creative work

**Who is it for?**
- Undergraduate students with little or no faculty-mentored research or creative work experience, but who are motivated to explore it
ERC Funding Amount and Application Deadline

- $1,500 worth of stipend per semester or $3,000 for 2 consecutive semesters
- Merit-based Scholarship (financial aid)

- Fall Deadline: Oct 20 (9/20-10/20)
- Spring Deadline: April 20 (3/20-4/20)
1. Enrolled as a classified undergraduate student at UHM in the semester following the application semester
2. Have more than 60 credits remaining in their bachelor’s degree program at the time of application
3. Mentored by a UHM faculty member who meets the eligibility criteria (tenured/tenure-track faculty)
4. Plan to graduate from UHM
5. Submit no more than one application per ERC funding cycle
6. $3,000/two semester limit per student
7. Have no more than one active ERC funding at a time (previous ERC funding recipients must satisfy all ERC completion requirements in the completion semester prior to receiving more ERC funding)
ERC Experience – What does it look like?

- At least 100 hours of research or creative work activities per semester
- Safety, ethics, and research compliance training
- Assist faculty with ongoing research or creative work
  - Methodology, technology, tool, etc. training specific to the discipline
- Initiate or help faculty with a project in a preliminary stage
  - Literature review
  - Planning
- Attend professional development modules
  - Research and creative work best practices
  - Responsible conduct of research
- Everyone is different!
ERC Experience – Why do it?

• Meet degree requirements
• Get funding to do research & creative work
• Get valuable experience
• Enhance CV/resume
• Work with faculty/experts
• Inform/confirm your future
Finding a Faculty Mentor

• Who is a faculty mentor?
  • Guide you through the world of research or creative work
  • Create opportunities for you to engage in
  • Set specific learning objectives and activities
Finding a Faculty Mentor

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

- 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
Steps Towards Submitting a Successful Application

- Plan ahead
- Review the ERC section on the UROP website
- Review the ERC Funding Application
- Talk with your faculty mentor
- Talk with UROP
Application Process

- Paperless, online application
- Faculty Mentor submits the ERC Mentor Form
  - Timetable, activities, and student outcome
- At least 2 UHM faculty reviewers per application
  - 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 you withdraw or not completed
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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.
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
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