

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Participation in research will allow you to get hands-on experience, make useful connections with research faculty, and build your resume/CV. Research opportunities can be paid, earned credit, or volunteer work. They can range from short term to long term and can be found at the university year round. While many veterinary schools (DVM) prefer applicants with some research experience, almost all graduate programs (MS, PhD degrees) in the life sciences require it.



1) Review research faculty interests and current projects.

a) ACBS faculty:

<http://acbs.cals.arizona.edu>

b) Faculty from other departments:

All UA departments can be found on the UA website:

<http://directory.arizona.edu/departments>

Navigate to find the listings of faculty and their listed research interests. This can be beneficial if you are thinking of attending graduate school outside of your current major or if you are interested in learning new techniques. Some common disciplines that often couple with majors in ACBS: public health, biology, molecular and cellular biology, entomology, environmental sciences, plant sciences, etc.



TIP: You can look up a faculty member's most recent publications by searching for their name using Google Scholar or PubMed. The UA pays for journal subscriptions so a large number of articles are available when using wifi on campus or when routing off campus using a VPN.

2) Contact faculty.

If you find a faculty member who you are interested in working with, attend their office hours or email them and make sure you include the following:

- Name and class standing (sophomore, junior, etc.)
- The most recent version of your resume or CV. (*We recommend you submit a draft to your academic advisor for edits before sending to a faculty member.*)
- Briefly explain why you are interested in their research and why you are interested in getting involved with research (personal interest, preparation for graduate school, paid job, etc.)

- Ask if they accept undergraduates in their lab, and if so, ask whether they have any work you could participate in.

Your initial email should be brief and to the point. They may follow up asking for an in-person meeting, schedule availability, and whether you are looking for paid or volunteer experience.

3) Additional resources and opportunities:

- Office of Undergraduate Research:
<http://www.ur.arizona.edu>
- Undergraduate Biology Research Program (UBRP):
<http://ubrp.arizona.edu>
- Undergraduate Research Opportunity Consortium (UROC):
<http://grad.arizona.edu/uroc/uroc-home>
- Arizona's Science, Engineering, and Math Scholars (ASEMS):
<http://asems.arizona.edu>