DR. YOLANDA TREVIÑO, UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL
OUTLINE

• Definition
• Why
• Who
• What
• When
• Where
• How
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student under supervision of a faculty mentor or supervisor that makes an original, intellectual, or creative contribution to the discipline ...

(adapted from the Council on Undergraduate Research)
WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE IN A STUDENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE?

Participation in undergraduate research benefits students educationally, professionally, and personally.
WHO PARTICIPATES IN STUDENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCES?

Open to all undergraduate students wanting to:

• Build their academic foundation.
• Get hands-on experience in the field.
• Explore fields of interest.
• Make valuable connections with faculty.
• Enjoy travel, new friends, and fun!
• A stepping stone to graduate school.

(from Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates, Institute for Broadening Participation)
WHAT DO FACULTY-MENTORED RESEARCH EXPERIENCES LOOK LIKE?

Students are paired with a faculty mentor in order to work on a project for 8-10 weeks over the summer; or, for an academic year program.

Summer research programs often provide stipend; housing; meals; conference travel, campus-based educational enrichment activities to broaden view of graduate education and research; along with strengthening technical skills. These activities tend to include: GRE test preparation; luncheons with faculty; workshops and seminars; symposium or poster presentations.
WHERE WOULD I CONDUCT MY RESEARCH?

Some research programs are campus based, others are hosted at national research laboratories or agencies, while others are conducted in the field including international project sites …
WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES?

Pathways to Science is a project of the Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP) that provides information for nearly 2,000 programs in a variety of disciplines and education levels.

Funding provided by

[Logos of National Science Foundation and NASA]
HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications typically require that students:

1. Be in good academic standing (3.0 GPA or higher)

2. Submit the following:
   - Online application form,
   - Academic transcript,
   - Personal statement (approx. 1000 words),
   - Summary of prior research, if any (approx. 1000 words),
   - Two letters of recommendation from faculty,
   - Paragraph (500 words or less) summarizing their interest in the discipline or project
WHEN SHOULD I PARTICIPATE IN A STUDENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE?

It takes time and effort to search for, select and apply to programs you are interested in – and it’s time and effort that has to fit in around all your other schoolwork!

Depending on the funding source, most undergraduates participate in a research program as rising sophomores, juniors and seniors. Many first year experiences programs offer a research component.
# Suggested Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer / Early Fall</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Early to Mid Winter</th>
<th>Mid to Late Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Early Summer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get organized</td>
<td>Search for programs</td>
<td>Make final selection of programs to apply</td>
<td>Make use of winter break to work on applications</td>
<td>Wait on offers</td>
<td>Receive and read program materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Begin drafting cover letter and personal statement</td>
<td>Note deadlines, requirements and contacts</td>
<td>Request letters of recommendation</td>
<td>Follow up with recommenders</td>
<td>Consider offers</td>
<td>Sign and return program forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discuss potential experience with family</td>
<td>Identify and talk with potential recommenders</td>
<td>Polish and re-polish essays and cover letter</td>
<td>Complete and submit applications!</td>
<td>Select and respond to offer</td>
<td>Touch base with recommenders</td>
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</table>

*(From Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates, Institute for Broadening Participation)*
WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the Institute for Broadening Participation’s (IBP) Pathways to Science site at

http://www.pathwaystoscience.org/