

Undergraduate Research at the College of Natural Resources

Students in the College of Natural Resources (CNR) have many opportunities to work with our outstanding faculty on research projects. Research enhances student scholarship and provides participants with invaluable skills and experience. The following are some of the ways you can get involved with research:

Sponsored Projects for Undergraduate Research (SPUR)

<https://nature.berkeley.edu/spur/>

SPUR encourages faculty and undergraduate students in CNR to collaborate on research projects by providing a grant to support their joint project. The funding for this program is generously donated by CNR alumni. Participating in SPUR is an excellent way to gain experience in research and build relationships with faculty. Research opportunities are available at the beginning of each semester and summer.

Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (URAP)

<http://research.berkeley.edu/urap>

URAP is designed to involve Berkeley undergraduates more deeply into the research life of the university. The program provides opportunities for you to work with faculty across campus on the cutting edge research projects for which Berkeley is world-renowned. Working closely with faculty, you will deepen your knowledge and skills in areas of special interest, while experiencing what it means to be part of an intellectual community engaged in research. Research opportunities open at the start of each semester.



College of Natural Resources Honors Program

<https://nature.berkeley.edu/advising/honors-program>

The CNR Honors Program is designed to support undergraduate students interested in developing, executing, and evaluating a year-long independent research project under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Students who successfully complete the Honors Program will earn recognition at graduation and will also receive a notation of Honors in their major on their diploma. The Honors Symposium, held once each semester, gives all Honors students the opportunity to present their research to fellow students, faculty, friends, and family.



Supervised Independent Study and Research

<https://nature.berkeley.edu/research/undergraduate-research>

CNR students may obtain academic credit for independent research completed under the guidance of a faculty member. Whether you are participating in honors research, SPUR, URAP, or other eligible research, you can earn up to four units each semester. The number of units you can earn for your 199 independent study course depends on the amount of research you conduct on a weekly basis (3 hours/week = 1 unit). This is a great way to earn lower and upper division units and most of our majors allow you to apply upper division units towards your major requirements.

CNR Faculty Directories

Search these directories to find information on faculty areas of expertise. Click the department to discover more about their faculty.

[Agricultural & Resource Economics](#)

[Environmental Science, Policy, & Management](#)

[Energy & Resources Group](#)

[Nutritional Sciences & Toxicology](#)

[Plant & Microbial Biology](#)

Faculty Research Interests & Expertise Database

<https://vcresearch.berkeley.edu/faculty-expertise>

The online expertise finder allows you to search for faculty using keywords. Feel free to contact professors directly to ask if they would be willing to sponsor you as you conduct your own research project or if they are seeking undergraduates to assist them with their research.

CNR Poster Sessions

<https://nature.berkeley.edu/poster-sessions>

Each spring and fall, the Office of Instruction & Student Affairs sponsors a poster session where CNR undergraduates present their research. Poster sessions give you the opportunity to explain and showcase your independent project to a large audience. Other benefits of participating in a poster session include gaining communication and presentation skills, and learning to summarize your research, which is an integral part of scholarship. You will also receive recognition for your hard work on a research project and have the chance to discuss your project with others who share your interests. In addition to gaining valuable skills, this experience is one you should add to your professional resume.

