

Benefits of Undergraduate Research

According to the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR), there are five specific benefits students gain from participating in undergraduate research:

1. Students and their mentors are able to build a relationship resulting in enhanced learning;
2. Involved students are more likely to be retained;
3. Enrollment into graduate schools increases with students who participate in undergraduate research;
4. Students have an increased knowledge base of research methodology; and
5. Undergraduate research also helps to increase the number of students who go on to graduate school.

In their recent article on the benefits of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity, Osborn and Karukstis (2009) identify a myriad of benefits that have been credited to undergraduate research. Based on their expertise as former presidents of CUR, Osborn and Karukstis (2009, pp. 43-44) categorize the benefits to students in terms of gains in knowledge and skills (i.e., enhanced persistence in the major, higher rates of acceptance into graduate/professional schools), fostering professional growth and achievement (i.e., enhanced ability to work collaboratively with others, stronger relationships with mentors, deeper integration into the culture of the discipline), and promoting personal growth (i.e., stimulation of curiosity, increased confidence, enhanced ability to learn independently).



