

# Guidelines for Faculty Mentors

## Office of Undergraduate Research

### Undergraduate Research Scholars (URS) and UROP Programs

Students applying for projects through the Undergraduate Research Scholarship (URS) or the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) must have projects that fulfill the requirements of the Office of Undergraduate Research. **These requirements include:**

1. **The project must be actual research, the systematic finding or creation of new knowledge.** What constitutes research varies from discipline to discipline; however, there is a difference between a student learning new information (appropriate for the classroom or directed study) and creating or helping to create new knowledge (appropriate for undergraduate research venues).
2. **The student must have an intellectual role in the research aspects of the project.** Students working on the research projects of their mentors must be included in activities that include not only data collection but data analysis as well. For example, if the study includes collecting information through interviews, lab or field work, or from historical documents, the student can't merely enter the data but must have a role in analyzing it. Coding data and doing literature reviews may be important parts of a research project, but students must have a role beyond these basic tasks.
3. **Students should be considered important members of the research team.** The goal of URS and UROP projects is to teach undergraduates to become researchers, to give them the skills and experience to understand what actual research is all about. These projects supplement classroom learning where students are

typically learning knowledge that already exists. As students participate in actual research projects, they develop the skills to make them valuable members of the research team.

### **Examples of Non-fundable projects:**

- Entering data collected through interviews in a psychology research project
- A literature review for a history project
- Cataloging works for an exhibit or creating a brochure
- Coordinating a final performance or recital for music or dance
- Transcribing data from audio or video files

While the tasks listed above may constitute a portion of a student's research project, they can't be the whole extent of the project or the most significant piece.

If you have a project, and would like to include an undergraduate through URS or UROP, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) with any questions about the appropriateness of your project or how the process works. We rely on faculty mentors to train the next generation of U of MN Discoverers!

[www.ugresearch.umn.edu](http://www.ugresearch.umn.edu)

ugresearch@umn.edu