SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

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ursca.org
concordia_ursca
What is URSCA?

Concordia defines URSCA as encompassing all forms of research, scholarship and creative activity, as an investigation or inquiry conducted by a student, under the mentorship of faculty or staff, which contributes to a high-level intellectual or creative outcome.
What are some benefits to conducting URSCA?

- Dive deeper into areas of interest that can sharpen your career focus
- Increase confidence with new skills and competencies
- Foster innovative thinking, problem solving, and creativity
- Improve communication and networking skills; build relationships
- Increase opportunities for disseminating results and outcomes
- Be more competitive for graduate schools, jobs, and fellowships
Types of URSCA Experiences

**Summer**
- On or off campus
- Work 1:1 or in small teams with mentor(s)
- PEAK (URSCA Teams)
- May earn credits (but $$)
- Paid + Free or reduced housing
- Typically 6–10 full-time weeks; some part-time
- Workshops and social activities
- Present at COSS

**Academic Year**
- On or off campus
- Work 1:1 or in small teams with mentor(s)
- PEAK (URSCA Teams)
- May earn 1–4 credits per semester (40hrs/credit)
- Some paid internships
- Few to several hours per week
- One or both semesters
- Present at COSS
Getting Started

1. Be inquisitive! Talk with faculty and staff about the research or creative scholarship they do.

2. Meet with your advisor & the director of URSCA to talk about the opportunities that interest you most.

3. Search online for programs that match your interests and eligibility.
Identifying URSCA Opportunities

**ON CAMPUS**
- Ask dept/pgm admins about application deadlines
- Talk with potential mentors
- Check ursca.org for any programs with special funding

**OFF CAMPUS**
- Search online
- Check eligibility requirements
  - enrolled students
  - U.S. citizenship
  - time commitment
  - application deadline

**SURF**
- SPUR
- SURP
- SURIP
- STEP-UP
- SIBS
- SR-EIP
- SROP

**Leadership Alliance**
- National Archives
- Sanford Research
- Scripps Research
- Smithsonian
- Think Swiss
- DC Internships
- USA Jobs

**REU and iREU**
- Pathwaystoscience.org
  - There are many programs! Include your discipline of interest in your search terms.
Application Tips

**TO DO**
- Be authentic and articulate in your desire to conduct URSCA
- Back up general statements with specific examples
- Describe your contribution to prior related experiences
- Convey why you are excited about doing URSCA and what motivates you
- Explain how a summer URSCA experience will help you reach your career goals.

**BE AUTHENTICALLY YOU!**
A cover letter, personal statement, and/or statement of purpose contribute to your opportunity to introduce yourself and why you want to pursue research or creative scholarship.

**TO AVOID**
- flowery language and hyperbole
- inflating previous experiences
- embellishing results of previous work
- sounding arrogant
- providing a list of skills
- being vague
- not answering application questions
- telling the program how great they are (they already know that) :-(
Letters of Recommendation

- Most applications will ask for 2 to 3 letters of application.
- Talk with faculty and mentors who can speak to your motivation for URSCA and any prior experiences you have had.
- Ask early! Give a minimum of two weeks for recommenders to submit their letter.
- Typically, students apply to ~10 summer programs if seeking off-campus experience.
  - You will submit your information to the program and list who will write a letter of recommendation for you.
  - The program will send an automated email to your letter writers with a link to submit their recommendation.
QUESTIONS?

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PEAK