

Want to Get Involved in Research?

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The first step to getting started in research is to **find a faculty mentor**. The role of a mentor is to:

- assist in the development and articulation of a project idea and plan.
- help understand the methods and concepts of research and scholarship within your field.
- guide and train you in the skills and/or techniques needed to complete a project.

Most students work directly on a faculty project. So no pressure to come up with your own idea!



There are multiple ways to find a mentor.

- ✓ Talk to current or past professors
- ✓ Ask peers about their professors or mentors

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Students engage in research in a number of ways from volunteering to earning independent study credit to receiving grant funding. Talk to your mentor about the best fit for you!



Once you have a mentor and a project, the first step is to **register your project** in the Research Registry (sc.edu/our/ResearchRegistry/).



Academic Credit

Talk to your academic advisor and mentor.



Grants

OUR has a number of funding opportunities for students. Visit our website for more information or make an appointment to speak with one of our advisors.

No matter what path in research you choose,

Engage – Document – Reflect

Learn more sc.edu/CIEL

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With a project well underway, get ready to show off your accomplishments! Showcasing your research can help build your resume, enhance your communication skills and give you special networking, travel and other exciting opportunities.

Opportunities to showcase at UofSC:



Present at **Discover USC**
sc.edu/DiscoverUSC



Publish in **Caravel**
Caravel.sc.edu/



Graduate with **Leadership Distinction in Research**
sc.edu/GLD

Learn more
sc.edu/UndergraduateResearch
=>Share your work

Finding a Mentor/Project Checklist

- Create list of areas of research or topics that interest you**
- Create list of potential mentors**
 - Ask current or previous professors or advisors for suggestions (or if they have opportunities for you)
 - Get ideas and suggestions of good mentors from peers
- Read about the research of potential mentors**
 - Faculty web pages
 - Publications online and through the library
- Email a BRIEF letter of introduction requesting a meeting**
 - Formal business letter (Dear Dr. or Prof.)
 - Brief introduction (1-2 sentences) about yourself
 - Purpose of letter (looking to get or very interested in getting research experience-be specific!)
 - Request a meeting (I'm interested in learning more about your research, would you have some time to meet with me so that I can learn more about it. I am available [list days/times] and am happy to meet at your convenience.)
- Follow up**
 - Closing statement (Thank you for your time. Sincerely,)
 - Include your resume and/or academic transcripts (optional)
- Be prepared for your initial meeting**
 - Give the mentor at least one week to respond to your email (don't expect immediate response)
 - Bring background information about yourself (e.g., resume, academic transcripts)
 - Determine how much time you are able to commit to a research project (bring course schedule)
 - Bring 2-3 questions to ask about the mentor's research
 - Show your knowledge and interest in the mentor's research as well as your motivation & excitement for pursuing a research project.

To ensure you find a mentor that is the right fit for you and your research interests, we recommend you identify several faculty members. List their information below and decide who to contact first. Do not send emails to multiple faculty at once. Wait at least a week for a response before contacting them again or emailing the next faculty member on your list.

Faculty Name: _____

Email: _____

Research Interest: _____

Faculty Name: _____

Email: _____

Research Interest: _____

Faculty Name: _____

Email: _____

Research Interest: _____

Faculty Name: _____

Email: _____

Research Interest: _____