Undergraduate Research at MSU Denver

Sheryl Zajdowicz, Ph.D.

Interim Associate Dean of Data and Enrollment Management for CLAS

Professor of Biology

swaltonz@msudenver.edu (Please contact me if you have questions! I’m happy to help!)

# What does undergraduate research mean to you?

Scholarly activities and/or creative works are essential for success in your pursuit of tenure. To be successful, define what type of scholarly activities are appropriate for your discipline and what research means to you. Not only are undergraduate research and scholarship important for you, but they are also high impact practices that provide students with incredible opportunities that enrich their educational experience.

How will you engage undergraduates in research/scholarship?

* Mentor individual projects
	+ Associated with your own research
	+ Student-driven research
	+ Identify your mentoring style
* Course-based research/Research Class/Senior Experience
	+ Some disciplines have research methods courses established in the curriculum
	+ Courses have research component embedded that engages students in research and contributes to novel research
	+ Capstone courses engage students in various levels of novel research

\*\*Important things to remember when mentoring: establish clear expectations, outline steps of research, foster independence, be proactive in determining student understanding of research, facilitate resilience and confidence building, encourage interactions with broader research community, encourage professional development, and foster communication skills. It is also important to remember that you may need to have flexibility when it comes to your research goals.

# What resources are available at MSU Denver?

There are various resources available to support undergraduate research/scholarly activities at MSU Denver. Please note that some of these may not be true for all colleges or schools at MSU Denver.

The following are helpful resources for funding undergraduate research:

* Individual departments
* Dean (CLAS has Dean’s Innovative Grant opportunities each fall)
* Provost (Mini-grants for writing external grants)
* CO-WY AMP (Student mini-grants)
* Undergraduate Research Program (Student mini-grants available in the fall and spring)
* Community-based Research (grants for faculty offered through URP)
* Office of Diversity and Inclusion (Diversity Initiative Grants)
* Faculty Accompanying Students (FAS) Grant through Office of Faculty Affairs (support faculty travel when accompanying students to a conference or other professional event

The following are additional resources to support Undergraduate Research at MSU Denver:

* [Auraria Library (excellent support for faculty and students)](https://library.auraria.edu/faculty-resources)
* [Institutional Review Board](https://www.msudenver.edu/institutional-review-board/)
* [Office of Sponsored Research and Programs (support for grant writing)](https://www.msudenver.edu/sponsored-research-programs/)
* [Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Program (part of Undergraduate Studies)](https://www.msudenver.edu/undergraduate-research-creative-scholarship-program/)
* [Center for Advanced STEM Education](https://www.msudenver.edu/advanced-stem-education/)
* Center for Multicultural Engagement and Inclusion [Student Professional Development/Student Travel (supports student travel to conferences)](https://www.msudenver.edu/multicultural-center/student-travel-and-professional-development-funding/)
* [*The Rowdy Scholar*: A Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works](https://www.msudenver.edu/rowdy-scholar/): Encourage your students to submit their scholarly research and creative projects from class or independent studies!

# Other resources?

MSU Denver has an institutional membership to the Council on Undergraduate Research! There are various conferences, funding opportunities, and publications available to members of CUR. <https://www.cur.org> . It’s a definite benefit to us!

Sign up at: <https://members.cur.org/members_online/members/newmember.asp>

MSU Denver also has an institutional membership to [Academic Impressions](https://www.academicimpressions.com/). There are various workshops and trainings available (many are free to members!).

***Save the Date!*** MSU Denver’s Annual Undergraduate Research Conference: A Symposium of Scholarly Works and Creative Projects. Students are able to present their research from classes, independent studies, and internships at any level of completion. It’s a great opportunity for all attendees, so encourage your students to present or simply to attend to become inspired about the opportunities that exist!