



What is a Research Coach?

Research Coaches are awarded Research-informed Learning Scholarships, giving them the opportunity to help instructors design a research project for a first- or second-year class and then provide guidance to students as they plan, research, and present their research projects via poster presentations or via participation in the Undergraduate Research Conference. This enhanced introduction of discipline-based research and creative inquiry principles and practices is intended to complement the kind of research-based opportunities which have been traditionally available to students in the final years of their undergraduate degree programs.

Benefits:

- Becoming a Research Coach is a great way for senior undergraduate students and graduate students to gain valuable mentoring experience—experience that offers a different focus than that provided by working as a teaching assistant.
- For senior undergraduates, it helps develop research abilities and provides excellent preparation for graduate studies or further contributions to research.
- For faculty, Research Coaches help provide personalized support to first- and second-year students as they develop research skills and an appreciation for research generally.

Research Coaches:

- Work with an instructor in a specified class and may help design a curriculum-based research project, coach undergraduate students in completing the project, and provide assistance in designing opportunities for students to share their projects with classmates. Small “knowledge mobilization” grants (\$250) are made available to the sponsoring faculty member to cover the printing of posters and other associated costs.
- Answer student questions and guide and support students regarding research processes.
- Collaborate with the instructor and the students while students are planning, carrying out, and communicating their research.
- Receive a research training workshop, on-going support as part of a network of Undergraduate Research Ambassadors, and a \$1500 Undergraduate Research Coach Scholarship.

- Can hold this position in addition to a teaching assistantship, research assistantship, or another position on campus.

How to Get Involved:

- **STUDENTS:** If you're interested in becoming a Research Coach, let your professors or supervisor know! Your interest might show them they have the support needed to introduce research projects into their own classes.

FACULTY: Please consult the guidelines and research literature on Research-informed Learning. The scholarship will be awarded based on the faculty member's commitment to introducing a research project or multiple research projects that promote hands-on, high impact research training. The goal is for first- and second-year students to be welcomed into the academic community with the opportunity to Discover, Connect, Engage with research, and, eventually, to Become researchers:

- To develop an understanding of the research arc
- To get a sense of research as it applies to learning and discovery, and
- To gain insight into what it means to think and act like a researcher using discipline-specific methods and techniques.

These curriculum-based opportunities consist of all 3 elements of the research arc:

- developing a question
- investigating the question using the tools of the discipline
- sharing the findings with a wider audience

Adjudication:

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies will provide up to 30 scholarships for upper-level students (the Research Coach) valued at \$1500. The Research Coaches (upper-level students) will be funded by the Research Office for the Winter Semester, January 2019.

The program is designed as an opportunity to engage first and second-year students in the classroom, and we ask interested faculty to submit the following information to the Research Office. Please include the course name and number, the name of the student you are nominating for the Research Coach role, and a brief description of the project that promotes hands-on high impact research training for first- and second-year students (please see attached application).

Eligible faculty/classes are those making a commitment to enhance first- or second-year students'

- understanding of the research arc (where a defined project or activity develops a research question, investigates the question using the tools of the discipline, and shares the findings with a wider audience)
- sense of research as it applies to learning and discovery, and

- insight into what it means to think and act like a researcher using discipline-specific methods and techniques.