Fa 2017 to Su 2026 INSTITUTIONAL IMPACTS of

Undergraduate Research

33,947
different students engaged in at least one UR experience.

5,983
different people mentored at least one student's UR experience.

Building Career-Ready Researchers

The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) serves as Purdue's central campus resource for undergraduate research, supporting students, faculty mentors, and administrators across the university. Undergraduate research is one of Purdue's most powerful career-development experiences, enabling students to strengthen technical expertise, effectively communicate ideas, tackle complex problems, and build self-confidence through mentored discovery. The OUR creates pathways that aligns academic interests with professional goals, develops career-building research opportunities in collaboration with faculty and staff, and showcases student achievement through campus research conferences. The office also leads assessment and evaluation efforts that document the reach and impact of undergraduate research initiatives at Purdue.

75
peer institutions sought advice from the OUR since fall 2023.

Shaping National Best Practices

The OUR has strengthened Purdue's position as a national leader in undergraduate research by advising peer institutions, convening conversations within the field, and helping to shape undergraduate research practices nationwide. The office coordinates the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) annual survey for undergraduate research directors and has advised other institutions on conference management, curriculum, course-based undergraduate research experiences, and reporting since Fall 2023. Through these external engagements, Purdue is helping shape national best practices for undergraduate research infrastructure, student engagement, mentor development, and assessment.

10,497
presentations at OUR-hosted research events.

13,939
different students presented at least once, supported by

4,721
different mentors.

Showcasing Student Discovery at Scale

The OUR advances Purdue's undergraduate research enterprise through one of the nation's largest undergraduate research conference programs, giving student researchers four opportunities each year to present their work, engage with Purdue's research community and contribute to the university's culture of discovery. The conferences demonstrate OUR's operational effectiveness and measurable impact while offering a national model for managing high-volume, high-impact undergraduate research events that support students, mentors and faculty research excellence.

The OUR is helping Purdue set the pace for what undergraduate research can be. Through career-building student experiences, nationally scaled conference programming and strategic engagement with peer institutions, the OUR is expanding opportunities for students while strengthening Purdue's influence, reputation, and leadership across the undergraduate research community.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Office of Undergraduate Research

Figure 1. Unduplicated Counts of UR Students and their Mentors, by Academic Year
(excludes cases where it was not reported when the UR experience occurred)

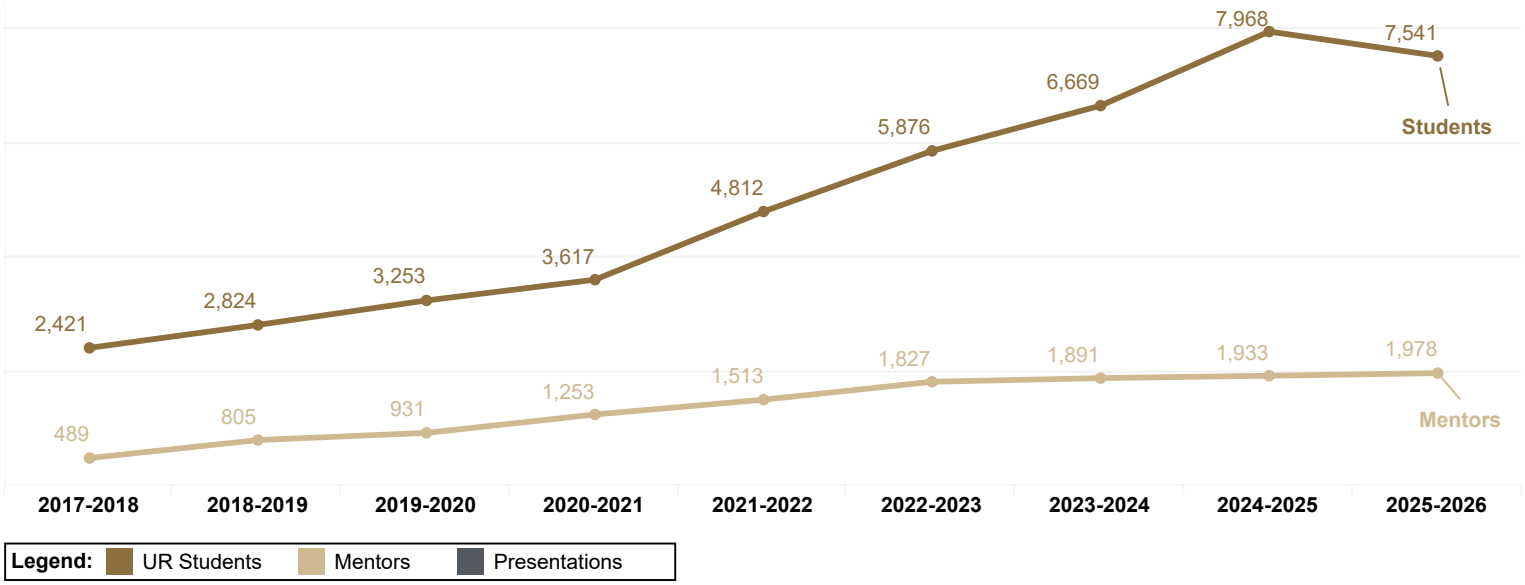
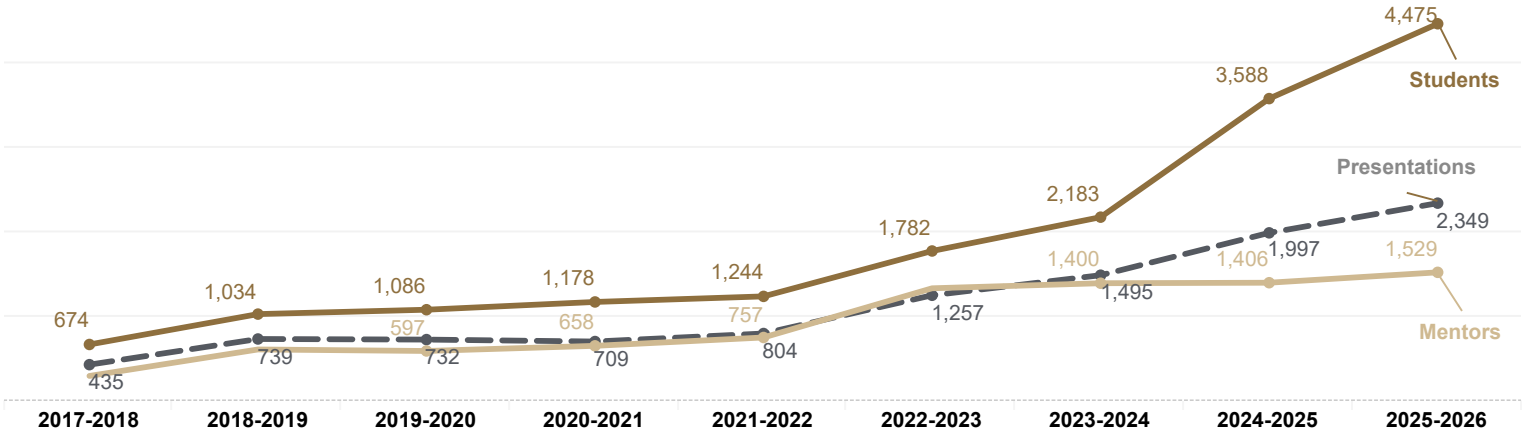


Figure 2. Unduplicated Counts of OUR-Hosted Conference Students, Mentors, and Presentations, by Academic Year



General Notes:
- Reporting for an academic year is typically not resolved until the following fall term. Hence, reporting for the current academic year (and usually the most recent academic year) may be incomplete.
- All counts unduplicated except where noted.
- All information is based on OUR programs/initiatives, plus any other UR experiences reported to the OUR. Overall, these counts underreport what is occurring, since (1) not all UR experiences get reported to the OUR and (2) not all reported experiences contain reidentifiable cases.
- Students' participating in UR experiences based on UR experiences reported to the OUR, for only Purdue students with a UG or PR classification during the experience.
- Mentors of UR experiences based on UR experiences reported to the OUR, for only mentors of student researchers with a UG or PR classification during the experience.
- Tracking the OUR points of contact only based on OUR programs/initiatives and does not count numerous other UR and UR-supportive experiences not coordinated by the OUR.

Data Sources:
Data used to create these reports are based on all undergraduate research conferences since fall 2017. Note that some data pre-2019 may be incomplete.

Is this "Final" Reporting?
Yes, once an academic year is completed. If you pull results out of this report for other uses, please include the statement:
"This report is based on information from the Office of Undergraduate Research, based on all data available to the OUR as of [Date site accessed]. Reported information can/will change if additional data are provided to the OUR by campus partners."

Data Sharing/Access:
To request data or reports, please refer to the OUR's request site: https://www.purdue.edu/undergrad-research/about/reporting/requests.php

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