ABOUT THE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM

The First-Year Undergraduate Research Program is for incoming BOILERMAKERS who do not have research experience. This Program includes research preparation, a paid research project, a peer mentor with research experience, a Purdue expert research mentor, and a research support course. These various activities provide foundational support on being a successful researcher.

THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

The First-Year Undergraduate Research Program is offered through the Purdue Office of Undergraduate Research to expand opportunities for individuals seeking their first research experience. The OUR is the central resource for connecting students and research mentors, and broadly supports all facets of the research experience for both students and mentors in their unique roles.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide provides information about the First-Year Undergraduate Research Program, what to expect, and how to apply. If you have any questions, please email the Purdue Office of Undergraduate Research at UGresearch@purdue.edu.
TWO OPTIONS TO BEGIN RESEARCH

There are two tracks for students to engage with the First-Year Program. Track 1 and Track 2 both include the foundational research preparation course on research practices and applying to opportunities. Track 1 offers funding when matched with a research project during the academic year.

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*Summer is available to conduct a research project outside of the formal First-Year Program.

HOW TO CHOOSE WHICH TRACK IS FOR YOU

If you are participating in another first-year program (e.g., Purdue Promise, Horizons, or Emerging Scholars), Track 2 might offer a better fit for scheduling purposes. OUR staff are always available to discuss your situation and identify which track may be better for you.

NEXT: Check out the First-Year Program elements.
RESEARCH PREPARATION SEMINAR COURSE

This 1-credit in-person course will cover information on completing a research project in any area of study while examining your potential interests. There are 2 sections of this course: Mondays at 3:30pm or Tuesdays at 3:30pm.

RESEARCH PROJECT

During the spring semester, you will work on a research project with a Purdue expert. This research project will be **PAID** for 10 hours per week at $10 per hour. There will be a variety of projects available to apply to with research mentors who want to work with first-year students. You will create application materials in the research preparation seminar course.

PEER RESEARCH MENTOR

While conducting your research project, you will be paired with an upper-level student researcher who will serve as a guide about research, college life, and Purdue in general.

RESEARCH SUPPORT SEMINAR COURSE

This 1-credit in-person course focuses on how to be successful as a first-year researcher. We all start somewhere and this course explains various research techniques and offers helpful campus resources within a supportive environment of your peers.

**NEXT:** Learn how to apply to the First-Year Program.
HOW TO APPLY TO THE PROGRAM

Apply for the First-Year Undergraduate Research Program through OURConnect, Purdue’s online undergraduate research application system.

Reviewing applications starts July 1, 2021 and will continue until full.

STEP 1: LOGIN TO OURCONNECT

- Go to www.purdue.edu/undergrad-research/ourconnect
- Click on “Login” (shown below)
- Select “Purdue” and use your BoilerKey credentials (###, push password)

OURCONNECT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH APPLICATION SYSTEM

OURConnect, Purdue’s undergraduate research application system, is designed to connect undergraduates with research mentors with open opportunities. OURConnect is divided into undergraduate research programs that you could apply into and individual research opportunities with research mentors.

Be sure to read through the expectations and the program qualifications, if applicable, before applying. Some research programs have eligibility requirements. It is strongly encouraged to do research on the program and/or research mentor before submitting your application. Applicants are eligible to apply to multiple research opportunities, but may only be selected for one.

STEP 2: CREATE YOUR OURCONNECT PROFILE

On the top, you should see “Profile” and then can select “Applicant.” This is where you will update your OURConnect profile. Please complete any applicable fields.

For GPA: Include 5.0 since you do not have a Purdue GPA.
For resumé/transcript: Upload blank documents for now. You will start creating them in your first semester.

NEXT: How to apply to the program continues.
STEP 3: ACCESS THE PROGRAM’S APPLICATION

Scroll down to First-Year Undergraduate Research Program and select More. Click Apply to start your application. The first page contains several questions to gauge student interest on various aspects of research. There are no right or wrong answers, so complete this page to the best of your ability.

STEP 4: SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

Available projects will be shown after you submit the first page. Click on the eye icon to the right of FIRST-YEAR STUDENT APPLICATION to provide additional information.

Upload your Statement of Interest—this is a required document. The template is available here as a WORD DOCUMENT. You should complete the responses in the document, save it, and then upload it to OURConnect to be reviewed.

Note: You do not have to include the background on why you are applying.

STEP 5: WAIT & CONFIRM YOU HAVE THE TIME

Ensure that you have time in your schedule to take the 1-credit, in-person class on either Monday or Tuesday at 3:30pm in Hicks Undergraduate Library. The selection process will begin shortly after an application is received. You should receive notification by August 1.

HAVE QUESTIONS: Email the Purdue OUR at UGresearch@purdue.edu.