FIRST YEAR INVESTIGATORS
FIRST-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT INTEREST & APPLICATION GUIDE

SPRING 2023 - FALL 2023

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Office of Undergraduate Research
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The First Year Investigators Program is for current first-year boilermakers who do not have research experience. The FYI 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 Investigators 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 Investigators 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.
FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM ELEMENTS

RESEARCH PREPARATION SEMINAR COURSE

This 1-credit in-person SP ‘23 course will cover information on completing a research project in any area of study while examining your potential interests. There are 2 sections to choose from: Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 3:30pm.

RESEARCH PROJECT

During the FA ‘23 semester, you will work on a research project with a Purdue expert. This research project will be PAID at $15/hour at either 6 or 10 hours per week. Projects will be available to apply to with research mentors who want to work with first-year students, but students can locate projects outside of these. 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 conducting your first research project, college life, and resources at Purdue.

RESEARCH SUPPORT SEMINAR COURSE

This 1-credit online FA ‘23 course focuses on how to be successful as a first-time researcher. We all start somewhere and this course explains various research techniques and offers helpful campus resources within a supportive environment of your peers. There will be regular in-person gatherings throughout FA ‘23.

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

Apply for the First Year Investigators Undergraduate Research Program through OURConnect, Purdue’s online undergraduate research application system. Reviewing applications starts Nov. 18, 2022 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 your GPA, if you do not have one, please include “5.0” so that you can move forward.

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 SPRING 2023 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 SP ‘23 class on either Tuesday OR Wednesday at 3:30pm. The selection process will begin shortly after the deadline of November 18, 2022. You will receive notification of the decision in early December.

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