The First-Year Undergraduate Research Program is for incoming **BOILERMAKERS** who do not have research experience. For peer student research mentors, this Program includes a mentor preparation course, paid mentoring experiences, and a mentor support course. *These various activities provide foundational support on being a successful research mentor to first-year students.*

**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 as a peer mentor, and how to apply. If you have any questions, please email the Purdue Office of Undergraduate Research at **UGresearch@purdue.edu**.
PEER MENTOR PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

1) Train to be a mentor using the “Entering Mentoring” curriculum during the fall.
2) Mentor a group of first-year researchers during their spring project.
3) Receive compensation (10 hrs/week) in the spring while mentoring students.

Student applications are accepted in summer 2021 and are selected in August. During the fall semester, students will take a mentor preparation course to learn how to be a mentor. During the spring semester, peer mentors will work with first-year students as teaching assistants for the research support course the first-year students will be taking and will lead monthly activities with the new students.

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<th>FALL ‘21</th>
<th>SPRING ‘22</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mentor Training Course</td>
<td>MENTOR STUDENTS &amp; Support Course</td>
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<td>PLUS, ATTEND FIRST-YEAR COURSE</td>
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NEXT: Check out the Peer Mentor Program elements.
FIRST-YEAR PEER MENTOR ELEMENTS

MENTOR PREPARATION SEMINAR COURSE
This 1-credit in-person fall course will cover information on serving as a mentor in any area of student using the “Entering Mentoring” curriculum as the foundation. There is 1 section of this course: Wednesdays at 4:30pm.

PEER MENTORING EXPERIENCE
During the spring semester, you will serve as part of the first-year student’s mentorship team alongside an expert research mentor. The mentoring activities will be PAID for 10 hours/week at $10/hour. Peer mentors will lead group and individual reflection activities to ensure a nice transition from a new student to a student researcher.

FIRST-YEAR COURSE TEACHING ASSISTANT
Included in the 10 hours/week is attending the in-person research support course the first-year students will take while conducting their research project in the spring semester. You will reinforce course topics during mentorship sessions.

MENTORSHIP SUPPORT SEMINAR COURSE
This 1-credit in-person spring course focuses on how to be successful as a mentor. This course will serve as a “check-in” on how your mentorships are going and will discuss on how to continue applying what you previously learned.

NEXT: Learn how to apply to the First-Year Peer Mentor 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 15, 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. If you already have a profile, ensure it is updated.

NEXT: How to apply as a peer mentor 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 *PEER MENTOR 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 Wednesday at 4:30pm in Hicks Undergraduate Library. The selection process will begin shortly after the July 15 deadline. You should receive notification in August.

**HAVE QUESTIONS:** Email the Purdue OUR at [UGresearch@purdue.edu](mailto:UGresearch@purdue.edu).