FIRST YEAR INVESTIGATORS
FIRST-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PEER MENTOR INTEREST & APPLICATION GUIDE

SPRING 2023–FALL 2023
ABOUT THE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM

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

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 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 spring.
2) Mentor a group of first-time researchers during their Fall 2023 project.
3) Receive compensation in the fall 2023 while mentoring students.
4) Participate in a seminar while mentoring students to receive support.

Student applications are accepted in fall 2022 and are selected in December. During the spring semester, students will take a mentor preparation course to learn how to be a mentor. During the fall semester, peer mentors will work with first-time researchers as teaching assistants for the online research support course the first-time researchers will be taking and will lead activities with the new researchers.

NEXT: Check out the Peer Mentor Program elements.
MENTOR PREPARATION SEMINAR COURSE

This 1-credit, in-person SP ‘23 course will cover information on serving as a peer research mentor using the “Entering Mentoring” curriculum as the foundation. *There is 1 section of this course: Wednesdays at 4:30pm.*

PEER MENTORING EXPERIENCE

During FA ‘23, you will serve as part of the first-time researcher’s mentorship team alongside an expert research mentor. The mentoring activities will be **PAID** at $14/hour, based on how many mentees you mentor: 5 mentees = 10 hours per week; 3 mentees = 6 hours per week. Peer mentors will lead group and individual reflection activities to ensure a nice transition as a student researcher.

RESEARCHER COURSE TEACHING ASSISTANT

Included in the weekly hours is participating in the FA ‘23 online research support course the first-time researchers will take while conducting their research project in the fall. You will reinforce course topics during mentorship sessions.

MENTORSHIP SUPPORT SEMINAR

This seminar focuses on how to be successful as a mentor. It serves as a “check-in” on how your mentorships are going and will discuss how to continue applying what you previously learned. *Optional: Earn 1-credit as an independent study.*

**NEXT:** Learn how to apply to the First-Year Peer Mentor 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. 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 the program. 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 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 SP ‘23 class on Wednesdays at 4:30pm. The selection process will begin shortly after the Nov. 18 deadline. You will receive notification in early December.

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