THE OFFICE FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND ARTISTRY’S MENTORED RESEARCH AND ARTISTRY PROGRAM

Program Background

The faculty, staff, and students at CSU are actively engaged in a wide range of scholarly activities that both anticipate and respond to the interests and needs of the people of Colorado, the nation, and the world. In these endeavors, we are recognized as one of the most highly rated public research universities in the United States. Faculty, staff, and students at CSU are pioneers in a variety of disciplines that help shape our global environment. The Mentored Research and Artistry Program provides a structure for undergraduate students to engage in these activities. Whether investigating infectious disease or the benefits of music therapy, international economics, or regional climate change, every undergraduate is encouraged to contribute to the scholarly output of CSU.

Program Philosophy

Aristotle noted, “For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.” The development and application of new knowledge plays an essential role at research-intensive universities, enhancing both learning and teaching. The Mentored Research and Artistry Program allows students to initiate a learning experience under the close guidance of a faculty mentor. Research and artistry, as an extension of the learning experience beyond the classroom, leads to the acquisition of skills and unique mindsets necessary to create new ideas and expand human knowledge. Through inquiry, students become their own teachers pursuing answers to unresolved questions and enriching their educational experience. For example, a student may use techniques learned in a chemical engineering laboratory to explore alternatives for clean energy. Another student might expand the technical repertoire of acrylic painting in the context of experimenting on canvas. In all cases, each student’s path to new knowledge is enhanced with the guidance and experience of a mentor. The role of faculty mentors in undergraduate inquiry is to provide input, feedback, and support while guiding students in the responsible and ethical pursuit of new knowledge and experiences.

Main Features

The Mentored Research and Artistry Program is designed to enhance and recognize the learning experiences of undergraduates who are engaged in research, artistry, or other forms of creative work. The experience allows students to distinguish themselves as undergraduate scholars in their disciplines. This opportunity is open to all undergraduate students in good academic standing who have at least two full semesters remaining before graduation. The criteria for completion of the program are rigorous, ensuring that only the most dedicated students receive the distinction of Mentored Research and Artistry Program on their transcript. Students earn the right to wear the Mentored Research and Artistry Program’s Silver Ribbon with their graduation regalia and of listing this distinction among their academic achievements.

Requirements

To complete the program, the following seven (7) requirements must be satisfied.

1. **Two semesters of Faculty Guided Research**
   Inquiry projects must be conducted under the guidance of a faculty, staff, or industry mentor for a minimum duration of two semesters. Approval of projects by the Office for Undergraduate Research and Artistry is required. Forms and guidelines for program registration are available at TILT (http://tilt.colostate.edu/oura/).

2. **Online and in-person Responsible Conduct of Research Training**
   Participating students must complete an in-person workshop on the Responsible Conduct of Research (https://www.research.colostate.edu/ricr/rcr/) (RCR), provided regularly by the Office for Undergraduate Research and Artistry. Additionally, participants are required to complete the online RCR training and examination module available at RCR (https://www.research.colostate.edu/ricr/rcr/online-training-and-certification/).

3. **Active Participation in a Related Registered Student Organization**
   Students must register and actively participate in a registered student organization (RSO) related to their discipline and approved by the Office for Undergraduate Research and Artistry. Students will be required to submit a letter from the organization’s Faculty/Graduate advisor verifying the student’s active involvement for at least two semesters.

4. **Course in Research Methods**
   Students must complete a research methods course with a grade of C or higher. The course must be approved by the Office for Undergraduate Research and Artistry.

5. **Publicly Present Research**
   Inquiry projects must be presented at CSU’s annual Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity (CURC) Showcase, Multicultural Undergraduate Research Art and Leadership Symposium (MURALS) (http://murals.colostate.edu/), or another venue approved by the Office for Undergraduate Research and Artistry, such as a regional or national conference. A program highlighting the participant’s project or a letter of verification from the faculty mentor must be included with the final report.

6. **Proof of Submission to a Relevant Journal**
   Projects must be submitted for publication in the CSU’s Journal of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Excellence or in another peer-reviewed journal approved by the Office for Undergraduate Research and Artistry. A copy of the published manuscript or correspondence from an editor of the journal to which a manuscript has been submitted indicating the manuscript is under review should be included with the participant’s final report.

7. **Final Report/Reflection and Support Letter from Research Mentor**
   Participants must submit a final report including a summary of the project, its outcomes, and a detailed reflection of the experience along with a letter from the mentor.

Contact

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Upon completion of a research project and submission of all of the above listed criteria together at one time, The Office for Undergraduate Research and Artistry will review the file and confirm the student's successful completion of the program notifying CSU's Office of the Registrar (https://registrar.colostate.edu/) for transcription of the Mentored Research and Artistry Program.

Note: Students have up to one year after graduation to complete the journal publication submission requirement provided all other criteria is submitted and the work being submitted was completed as an undergraduate. In these instances, the students’ transcripts can be amended to include Mentored Research and Artistry post-graduation.