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 Distinction 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 Distinction 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 Distinction 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 are rigorous, ensuring that only the most dedicated students receive the distinction of Mentored Research and Artistry on their transcript. Students earn the right to wear the Mentored Research and Artistry Distinction’s Silver Ribbon with their graduation regalia and of listing this distinction among their academic achievements.

Contact
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Requirements
To earn the distinction, the following nine (9) requirements must be satisfied.

1. Two Semesters of Guided Research
   Inquiry projects must be conducted under the guidance of a faculty, graduate student, 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 on the OURA website.

2. Online and in-person Responsible Conduct of Research Training
   Participating students must complete an in-person workshop on the Responsible Conduct of Research (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.

3. Service to Research on Campus
   Students must serve as a volunteer at one college- or university-level research-related event (each year as long as they are registered as part of MRAD). Events include college research/art days, CURC, MURALS, Graduate Student Showcase, etc.

4. 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.

5. Course in Research or Methods
   Students must complete a research or methods course with a grade of C or higher. Students can ask their academic advisors for a list of courses that fulfill this requirement. The course must be approved by the Office for Undergraduate Research and Artistry.

6. Publicly Present
   Inquiry projects must be presented at CSU’s annual Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity (CURC) Showcase, Multicultural Undergraduate Research Art and Leadership Symposium (MURALS), 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.

7. Proof of Submission to a Relevant Journal
   Projects must be submitted for publication in CSU’s Journal of Undergraduate Research or in another peer-reviewed journal. Students can fulfill this requirement by serving as a coauthor on a manuscript submission with their advisor. 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.

8. Final Report/Reflection
Participants must submit a final report including a summary of the project, its outcomes, and a detailed reflection of the experience.

9. **Support Letter from Research Mentor**
Participants must submit a letter of support from one or more research/artistic mentors.

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 for transcription of the Mentored Research and Artistry Distinction.

*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.*