

Goal 1: Excellence in Teaching and Learning

C. Enhance undergraduate student learning and success

Undergraduate research opportunities

Look for NSF and other undergraduate research support. Senior thesis class in many subjects is also possible. Gives an opportunity for writing in the discipline, and give an oral presentation in front of a friendly audience. Consider means for enhancing collaboration with the School of Medicine. Include the honors program.

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Current Status:

- Undergraduate research at IUPUI and its peer institutions is defined as mentored and independent research, i.e. the student works closely with a faculty mentor in a creative collaboration with the understanding that the student demonstrates substantial ownership of some part of the project.
- Currently, IUPUI offers 17 funded undergraduate research programs. Most of them are part of the Health and Life Sciences and STEM initiatives. Many of the programs target underrepresented minorities. Some programs provide research opportunities throughout the academic year others are for summer research only. Most of the programs are administered through the Center for Research and Learning (CRL).
- Students who earn five formal research credits, present or travel to a professional meeting, present at a symposium on or off campus, write a report on their work, and prepare a research portfolio can receive a transcript notation.

Recommendations/suggestions:

- Recognize and reward faculty involved in undergraduate research within each academic unit to increase the number of potential mentors.
- Provide workshops on undergraduate research to assist in developing research across the curriculum and to educate faculty on obtaining funding through collaborative proposals.
- Increase staffing at and funding for CRL to expand its programs.
- Coordinate the application and placement process of students based on their interests and the requirements for each program.
- Raise awareness of CRL activities among faculty and students to increase participation in undergraduate research.
- Improve and/or create new outcome assessment tools to measure the benefits of undergraduate research on campus.
- Use undergraduate research as a tool to recruit outstanding students into IUPUI graduate programs or professional schools. This can be accomplished by increasing the number of mentors who are involved in graduate programs or teach at the professional level.