

**A**tending Southern Illinois University Carbondale, a comprehensive research university, gives you a clear advantage: opportunities to work with nationally and internationally renowned faculty, top-notch research programs, and state-of-the-art facilities in diverse disciplines, from art to zoology.

## WHAT DOES RESEARCH OFFER ME?

Are you motivated, curious, and generally excited about your studies? Do you want to learn about the latest methods and techniques in your field of interest? Do you want to gain an inside edge in the competition to get a job or be accepted into graduate or professional school? Do you simply want a more challenging undergraduate experience? Then research is for you.

Research is the hands-on process of discovering new knowledge and creating new interpretations of the world around us. For undergraduates at SIUC, it means working one-on-one with faculty and graduate students in laboratories, studios, and libraries, on campus and in the field.



## HOW CAN I BECOME A STUDENT RESEARCHER?

First, identify your area of interest. It may be your major, or it may be a related field. Next, find a faculty mentor or advisor: talk to your professors and graduate teaching assistants in classes you enjoy, or inquire at the many research centers around campus (see [www.vcresearch.siu.edu/centers.html](http://www.vcresearch.siu.edu/centers.html)).

Most academic units offer credit for independent research and study, and a research project culminating in a thesis is one option offered through the **University Honors Program**. Volunteer to join research projects: it's a great way to learn career-related skills and determine if the field is right for you. Join departmental student organizations and honor societies. Read departmental bulletin boards and faculty websites to learn what's going on.

## WHAT RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

### Saluki Research Rookies Program

This program provides funds on a competitive basis for high-achieving freshmen and sophomores interested in conducting research and learning more about their intended major. Working with a faculty mentor, students plan a research project in fall semester to be carried out the following spring. Students receive an initial \$150 book stipend and earn a \$250 stipend if they successfully complete the program ([www.srrp.siu.edu](http://www.srrp.siu.edu)).

### REACH (Research-Enriched Academic Challenge)

This program offers competitive one-year Undergraduate Research/Creative Activity Awards to support original research, creative, or scholarly projects done with the guidance of a faculty mentor. Awards consist of \$1,500 grants combined with undergraduate assistantships of 10 hours per week (see below). Students present project results at the Undergraduate Research Forum (see back panel). *More Info:* [www.reach.siu.edu](http://www.reach.siu.edu).

### McNair Scholars Program

This federally funded program offers graduate school preparation to students from diverse backgrounds, including first-generation college students. It provides mentoring, GRE preparation, and academic support. McNair Scholars take part in a summer research institute and present findings at a campus symposium and at conferences in their discipline. *More Info:* [www.mcnairstsiu.edu](http://www.mcnairstsiu.edu).



### Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation

SIUC is a member of the Illinois Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, a statewide coalition dedicated to increasing the number of underrepresented minority students in science, mathematics, and engineering. Funded by the National Science Foundation, this program provides paid, mentored research experiences for undergraduates on campus. *More Info:* [www.ilsamp.siu.edu](http://www.ilsamp.siu.edu).

### Undergraduate Assistantships

The Undergraduate Assistantship program, coordinated through the Financial Aid Office, provides on-campus, paraprofessional employment opportunities for full-time undergraduate students with a cumulative GPA of 2.25 or higher. Students are able to work directly with a faculty member or professional-level staff member in a position related to their academic discipline or prospective career. Students are paid on a salary basis and work 10, 15, or 20 hours per week. **A high percentage of assistantships entail working with faculty on research projects**, so this is an excellent option for students interested in research. For a listing of positions, see [www.undergraduateassistantship.siu.edu](http://www.undergraduateassistantship.siu.edu).

### External Grants

Faculty, especially those in the sciences, often employ student workers and undergraduate assistants on their research grants. Check with your professors about opportunities.



Undergraduates also can apply directly to certain government or nonprofit agency programs for research grants and off-campus summer research fellowships. Most of these programs are discipline-specific, and the success rate can be high. *More Info:* academic departments; REACH ([www.reach.siu.edu](http://www.reach.siu.edu); see "Other Funding"); Office of Major Scholarship Advisement ([www.majorscholarships.siu.edu](http://www.majorscholarships.siu.edu)).

### Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society

The SIUC chapter of Sigma Xi sponsors an annual research poster conference with faculty and student participants, and Sigma Xi International awards research grants-in-aid to undergraduates. *More Info:* [www.sigmaxi.siu.edu/text.html](http://www.sigmaxi.siu.edu/text.html).

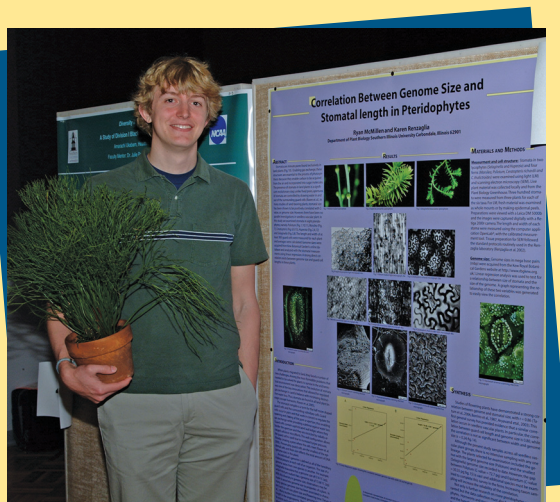
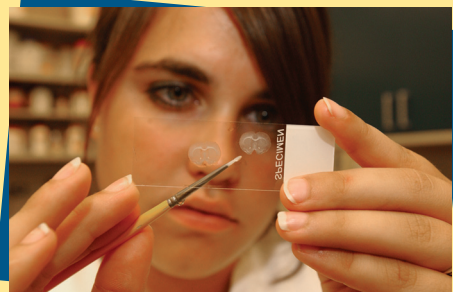
### Study and Research Abroad

Opportunities for study and research abroad include summer and semester programs and grants. Talk to your professors. *More Info:* Study Abroad Programs ([www.ips.siu.edu/sa](http://www.ips.siu.edu/sa)).

You can read about previous undergraduate research projects in **Undergraduate Research at SIUC**. It's online at [www.ospa.siu.edu/student](http://www.ospa.siu.edu/student), or contact the Office of Sponsored Projects Administration at [ospa@siu.edu](mailto:ospa@siu.edu) or (618) 453-4540 to receive a copy.

### SPEAR: A RESEARCH-RELATED STUDENT ORGANIZATION

The goal of SPEAR (Students Promoting Educational Advancement and Research) is to enhance undergraduates' professional development through research activities and preparation for graduate studies. SPEAR sponsors and publicizes research-related events and research opportunities ([www.mcnairstiu.edu/rsolindex.html](http://www.mcnairstiu.edu/rsolindex.html)).



## ANNUAL RESEARCH EVENTS

### Undergraduate Research Forum

Held annually in the spring semester, the forum features poster sessions and monetary awards for the best posters. All undergraduates doing research or creative scholarly projects with faculty at SIUC are invited to participate, and all students are invited to attend. In addition, recipients of Undergraduate Research/Creative Activity Awards for the following fiscal year are announced at this event. See the REACH web site for more information ([www.reach.siu.edu/forum.html](http://www.reach.siu.edu/forum.html)).

### McNair Scholars Research Symposium

At this annual summer event, McNair Scholars (students) showcase their research with oral presentations. Monetary awards are given to the top presenters. See the McNair website for more information ([www.mcnairstiu.edu](http://www.mcnairstiu.edu)).

### For more information:

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# Research Opportunities for UNDERGRADUATES



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 Southern Illinois University Carbondale