

University of Colorado Denver | Office of Undergraduate Experiences Undergraduate 2017-2018 Research Opportunity Program (UROP) – Faculty Mentor Information

Undergraduate students can play a significant role in creating new knowledge. Undergraduate research and creative activities foster personalized student learning outside the classroom. General information about undergraduate research is available through the CU Denver Office of Undergraduate Experiences and the Experiential Learning Center.

The CU Denver Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) provides small grants through a competitive review process to cover project expenses for CU Denver undergraduates who undertake scholarly research or creative activities in collaboration with a CU Denver faculty mentor. For many undergraduates, UROP is their introduction to research or creative projects; thus, the role of the faculty mentor is very important in making this initial experience a positive one.

In deciding whether to become a UROP mentor, the most important factor is the faculty member's motivation and availability to support and guide undergraduate students in a research or creative activity project. This UROP flyer outlines the role of faculty mentors who wish to sponsor a research or creative activity project with undergraduate students.

UROP Awards:

Approximately 20-40 UROP grants are awarded each spring semester. UROP projects may begin in either June or August, with the understanding that funds will be available starting July 1, 2017. Full UROP awards are limited to \$1,200 per individual student project and up to \$3,600 for a team project, and Mini UROP awards are limited to up to \$500 per individual. Funds to support Mini UROP awards are also available during the fall semester. Allowable expenses include student travel, materials, supplies, and stipends.

Students seeking UROP awards for projects involving clinical or translational research may also meet special eligibility requirements to receive funding from the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI), which is based at the Anschutz Medical Campus but available through the UROP program.

Student Eligibility:

Undergraduate students seeking UROP support for research or creative activities must meet criteria listed below.

- CU Denver (Denver or Anschutz Medical Campus) undergraduate student working toward a baccalaureate degree
- proposed project defined by the student's declared major (undeclared students are ineligible) or minor
- minimum of 15 hours of completed CU Denver course work with a cumulative CU grade point average ≥ 2.5
- Students graduating prior to May, 2018 may participate as the sole principal investigator, but may not serve as the principal investigator of a team project involving multiple students.

Faculty Eligibility:

Faculty desiring to sponsor students for a UROP grant must meet the criteria listed below.

- regular or adjunct faculty appointment from the Denver Campus or Anschutz Medical Campus, or an affiliation appointment with a research facility not on the Denver or Anschutz Campus (VA, National Jewish, etc.)
- Denver Campus lecturer or instructor faculty members need department chair or program director permission.

Faculty Mentoring:

Faculty members sponsoring a UROP project have the following mentoring obligations:

- lend support to the student investigator(s) in defining the project for reasonable goals and time frame
- support students in the preparation of the UROP application, particularly in project details, bibliography, and budget
- take lead responsibility for UROP projects utilizing human subjects, animal care, and/or project risk (see below)
- closely supervise the beginning of the project to ensure a successful project initiation
- initiate regular meetings with UROP student(s) to review progress and oversee budget expenditures
- provide support for Research and Creative Activities Symposium (RaCAS) presentation in April, 2018
- oversee the final UROP report written by the student(s)

Application:

The UROP application is the first part of the learning process for undergraduate students. The UROP application is to be written by the student(s), with the support of the faculty mentor. Student-initiated projects require close mentor review for realistic project goals and timelines. Faculty-initiated projects should not be a cut/paste into the UROP application from previous grant applications or published results.

The UROP application is submitted by the student principal investigator, and a complete application must include the section completed by the faculty mentor. The UROP application is available at:

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/ue/UROP/Pages/default.aspx> The complete spring application is due electronically by Friday, March 3, 2017 no later than 5:00 p.m. MT to mary.baitinger@ucdenver.edu. The complete fall Mini UROP application is due electronically by September 22, 2017, 5:00 p.m. MT.

Responsibilities:

UROP funds for projects involving human subjects, animal care and/or risk cannot be distributed until the faculty mentor has obtained a waiver or approval from the University of Colorado Denver Human Subjects Research Committee, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and/or CU Denver Risk Management.

Information:

For questions regarding the undergraduate research, the UROP program, or the application process, please contact the Office of Undergraduate Experiences: 303-315-2133 or mary.baitinger@ucdenver.edu