

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program

1. How do St. Thomas students participate in research?

Undergraduate students are major contributors to the research mission of the university, working as research assistants and collaborators across fields. There are a lot of different pathways for students to work on collaborative research with faculty. Those pathways include seeking research positions through student employment in an academic department or center, and working one-on-one with a faculty mentor to develop an individual project for credit as an independent study or with a stipend through a student research grant. Students also present and publish their own research results in a wide range of venues. [Check out some of our students' stories for a glimpse of what's possible!](#)

Students also seek out advanced off-campus opportunities, especially through summer experiences funded by institutions like the National Science Foundation. All St. Thomas students can register for free for the Student Opportunity Center to search, track, and apply for opportunities that fit your interests and needs.

2. What is the best way to get started in research?

Get to know your professors and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. We are happy to talk to you about preparation, timing, and upcoming opportunities. Make connections between your classes, your own interests, and the people you'd like to collaborate with to start preparing for a research experience.

3. What kinds of experience and support does UROP offer?

Funding: UROP hires and pays student researchers to complete semester or summer long research projects, offers reduced-cost summer on-campus housing for research students, and funds student travel to conduct or present research. (Note that travel funding is limited to registration fees and related costs for virtual conferences while university travel restrictions are in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19.)

Preparation and professionalization: UROP hosts proposal writing workshops, networking events, and our campus's semiannual research results poster session to support your access to advanced research experiences and help you develop the tools and communications skills of a researcher.

Community: The poster sessions in fall and spring semester bring together our campus community of researchers to learn from each other and celebrate accomplishments. UROP also hosts optional faculty led summer research communities for active research students to share skills and support each other as they pursue their research and plan for the future.

4. I'm thinking of majoring in x. Can I participate in research?

Yes! In addition to the advanced opportunities that are available in your department, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program accepts proposals from students in all fields and majors. As long as you are enrolled in a bachelor's or associate's degree program, you can apply for a student research grant with any major, during any year in school, with any number of credits completed, and with any GPA. UROP grants are awarded based on the strength of your research proposal.

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