

COLLABORATIVE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND INQUIRY

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The St. Olaf Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) program provides opportunities for St. Olaf students of all academic disciplines to gain an in-depth understanding of a particular subject through working closely with a St. Olaf faculty member in a research setting.

CURI promotes collaborations between students and faculty during the academic year through Directed Undergraduate Research (DUR) and during the summer, both on and off-campus. Throughout the experience, students learn how research is performed in the discipline of their choice. The program is also a good opportunity for students to reflect and further evaluate where their skills, interests, and values best fit with their future professional endeavors.

A student interested in applying for the CURI program must be enrolled as a St. Olaf student and be a rising sophomore, junior, or senior. There is no GPA requirement that must be met in order to apply for the program, but a student's academic record will be considered during the selection process.

Research Opportunities at St. Olaf

Research opportunities can be discovered in a variety of settings; talk to faculty members about their research or current projects. Posters hanging in the halls display recent projects and help students identify a professor's area of study. Besides these informal exchanges, students have several options to explore opportunities during the academic year and in the summer.

Summer Research

Typically, students do not earn course credit for summer research because they are paid employees of the college. The remuneration also includes housing on campus. A general email announcement inviting students to apply for summer research is sent to all students early in the second semester. This email directs students to a list of descriptions of projects for which faculty are seeking student collaborators.

Academic Year

There are several ways in which students can participate in undergraduate research during the academic year. Students may take an Independent Research course and work on a project under the supervision of a faculty member. Another option is our Directed Undergraduate Research (DUR) course. In this course, which may be taught in any department or program, a small group of students work with a faculty member on research. These courses are listed in the class and lab schedule in the Student Information System (SIS). Students are encouraged to discuss these opportunities with associated faculty.

Finally, each spring students in applied mathematics, statistics, and computer science are invited to apply to be Fellows in the Center for

Interdisciplinary Research (CIR) for the following academic year. Eligible statistics students will have completed at least STAT 272, while criteria for students in applied math or computer science will depend on the nature of proposed projects. More information on the CIR is available at wp.stolaf.edu/cir (<http://wp.stolaf.edu/cir>).