

Doing research can provide a benefit of either funding or units.

When units are offered, you can decide whether to receive units.

During my undergraduate studies, I earned a total of 34 research units. Why?

Read on for my resources on how to get research units and why you should want them.

1 Why Get Units for Research

1. You will have official documentation on your Cal Central transcript that shows that you did research. Yay!
2. Units quantify the amount of work you did (1 unit = 3 hours of work per week)
3. It is impressive to see research courses in student applications (e.g. when applying to [SURF](#)) since many students do not have them
4. Some programs require research units

Example. The [EECS Honors Program](#) requires students to complete at least four units of Supervised Independent Study or other approved research credit such as the UGIS course offered through URAP.

Note. What if I get a poor grade? I've never heard of someone getting a poor grade (even in extreme cases), but try your best and communicate frequently with your mentor.

2 URAP

Grade: P/NP

Once you apply and are matched with a lab, you will be sent a learning contract.

Then, you can commit to receiving 1-4 units through UGIS 192 for that semester.

Details: [URAP Step 4: If You Are Selected](#)

3 Supervised Independent Study and Research

Grade: P/NP

3.1 MCB Dept

You don't have to be a MCB major to get units from MCB 99/199!

Requesting MCB 99/199 research units from a lab outside of the MCB Dept:

1. Obtain MCB faculty member sponsorship by asking your PI for a MCB faculty sponsor referral
2. Complete the application MCB Research Application for MCB 99/199
3. Send a copy to your PI and MCB faculty sponsor

For labs within the MCB Dept, just get approval from your PI and submit the form.

Deadline: Friday of the third week of the semester

Details: [To Receive MCB 99/199 and MCB 191](#)

3.2 EECS Dept

Similar to subsection 3.1, you will need a faculty member in the department to sponsor your units.

Fill out [this form for CS 199 or EE 199](#).

This form can be found on the [undergrad research homepage](#).

4 Honors Thesis

Grade: Letter

4.1 MCB Dept

For declared MCB majors only.

Details: [To Receive MCB 191](#)

4.2 EECS Dept

For Honors Students in the [EECS Honors Program](#) only.

1. Fill out the [Honors Thesis form for CS H196A/B](#): Senior Honors Thesis Research.
Note. Make sure to have a supervising faculty member in the EECS Dept. Otherwise, find an EECS faculty sponsor.
2. Send the form to the appropriate recipients described in the form
3. Enroll once you receive the course enrollment information from Dept staff
4. Repeat steps 1-3 to sign up for H196B to continue for the next semester

For others departments, please see your department website for details.