

Teaching and Learning via Undergraduate Research: Notes from the Harvard Forestry Data Science Lab

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UFDS Program Overview

- Ten-week summer program.
- Answering genuine statistical questions from the US Forest Service and stakeholders.
- Students from a variety of backgrounds and abilities.
- Minimal “prerequisites”.



Student Experience

- Most of the time, this is the student's first research experience.
 - Curating research experience while being “productive”.
 - Sense of belonging: students present ideas, teaching peers in meetings etc.
- Students as teachers: play off each other's strengths.
- Balance in workload and avoiding burnout: many fun group activities throughout the summer.



Outcomes

- Confident students who want to further engage with research.
- Understanding the huge benefits of collaboration.
- Finding jobs that bring joy.

