

Research with Professorial Faculty (CMSC499A)

An important component of the undergraduate major in Computer Science is research. Undergraduate research prepares students for the demands of both graduate school and the job market. Research opportunities allow students to apply what they have learned in their lower-level and upper-level courses in a variety of ways. Research opportunities also allow for students to not only see, but understand, how the Computer Science faculty members engage in their work outside of the classroom. For a comprehensive overview of the research process in CS, please review this CS Honors slide deck (<https://www.cs.umd.edu/~dml/honors/what-is-cs-honors.pdf>) created by Dave Levin, Assistant Professor and Chair of CS Honors.

The Department of Computer Science encourages all of its students to engage in research; ideally, this type of project should epitomize the mission of the undergraduate major. In order to promote student interest and activity in research areas of the field, the department offers students the ability to complete a research project for credit by taking CMSC 499A. A student may engage in research by either serving as an assistant to an ongoing project that has been initiated by a faculty member, or he or she may initiate his or her own research project with a faculty sponsor. Students are expected to have completed CMSC330 / CMSC351 prior to taking CMSC499A.

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that students write a preliminary proposal explaining what they expect to accomplish during the course of their research project.

With the assistance and guidance of their faculty sponsors, students will accomplish their proposed research and write a research paper or produce a website or other product detailing the work that they have completed over the course of the semester.

How to Complete Independent Research:

1. Schedule a meeting with a CS faculty member regarding sponsorship for Independent Research.
2. If the faculty member agrees to become your sponsor, determine the scope of your research and outline the work that you will be doing throughout the semester. At this time, the faculty member should explain to you how your work will be evaluated.
3. Fill out an Application for Undergraduate Independent Research form [PDF]
([/sites/undergrad.cs.umd.edu/files/images/uploads/2021/08/CMSC499A%20Application_Fall%202019.pdf](https://sites/undergrad.cs.umd.edu/files/images/uploads/2021/08/CMSC499A%20Application_Fall%202019.pdf)).
4. Submit your application to your academic advisor by the first day of the semester.

Contact Our Office

CS Undergraduate Office (<https://undergrad.cs.umd.edu>)

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Part of the

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