“Students benefit tremendously from collaborative research because it allows them to personally experience the thrill of discovering something that no one else knew. In addition, research makes what students learn in class so much more real because they realize what it takes to make those discoveries that show up in textbooks.”

—Peggy Richey, Centre biology professor

Why Do Research?
The talented students who enroll at Centre often are eager for challenges beyond traditional classroom discussion and testing. These students are ready for a new level of discovery, so we provide the opportunity for them to become partners in learning with our faculty, and offer them opportunities off-campus as well.

The Right Opportunity
In some fields, you won’t have to go looking for the research opportunities at Centre — they’ll come looking for you. Faculty members with long-term research projects regularly seek out students with ability and self-discipline. Dr. David Anderson (economics) often recruits student researchers for his study of the economic burden of crime; Dr. Preston Miles (chemistry) seeks students for his on-going research in trace analysis; and Dr. Beau Weston (sociology) usually needs student assistance with his research on the sociology of religion.

Your research and scholarship experience can be woven into your academic regimen in several ways:

• Faculty-Student Collaboration: Work with a professor on one of their research projects during the summer.

• Off-Campus Research: Choose an internship at a variety of national and local institutions.

• Summer job: If you don’t need to obtain course credit for your research, simply list it on your resume as valuable work experience.

Nathaniel Deaton ’15 (above) collaborates with Rodes Professor of Religion Tom McCollough on a research project that focuses on material evidence recovered from recent excavations of Roman era villages in lower Galilee. Their findings seek to explain the economic dimension of the area in ancient times.

Faculty-Student Collaboration
The nature of the partnership will vary according to the student’s area of interest. Regardless of the field, these collaborative efforts become an important bridge to significant work or graduate study beyond the Centre years.

Some recent topics of faculty-student collaborations:
• bacterial resistance to antibiotics
• math probabilities of informed football game decisions
• the impact of microfinance on poverty
• factors that influence juror opinions of guilt/innocence
• pairbonding behavior in ring neck doves
• preventing and reversing arterial plaque development
• reproductive traits of wild American ginseng
• development of fiber optic lasers
• the effects of meditation on cardiac function

John C. Young Scholars Program
The John C. Young Scholars program is designed to serve strong, highly motivated senior students allowing them to engage in independent study, research, or artistic work in their major discipline or in an interdisciplinary area of their choosing. Students will apply for the program in the spring of their junior year by submitting a thesis proposal to a faculty member who will serve as their project director and who will collaborate with them in designing the program.

Every year approximately seven seniors are chosen as John C. Young Scholars. Guided by a Centre professor, these academically outstanding students, choose any topic of
interest, and present their work at a symposium. The program offers students a stipend to cover expenses related to his or her project, and the results of their research are subsequently published.

Examples of recent student work:
- Thomas Jefferson and the church-state separation
- British colonialism and the tribes of Transjordan
- Nashville songwriter culture in film
- The science and economics of nuclear fusion
- The evolution and application of Al-Qaeda’s Jihad
- Impact of land-use practices on water quality
- Consumerism and the Soviet Union
- Female protagonists and the journey in early novels
- Writing the gothic stories of Louisville

**RICE Symposium**
Sponsored by the Dean, the annual RICE symposium serves as a venue for Centre students to present the results of their research, creative activity, and internship experiences. The symposium is structured like a typical academic conference—with registration, abstract submission, concurrent paper sessions, a poster session, and a keynote speaker. Students’ abstracts are published together in a bound program. For more info, visit [www.centre.edu/academics/opportunities/rice-symposium-2](http://www.centre.edu/academics/opportunities/rice-symposium-2).

**Off-Campus Research**
If you have a passion for a subject and are eager to work outside of Centre, there are many opportunities to find an internship or research position at a well-known company, institution, or organization.

Here are some of the internships Centre students have participated in during the summer:
- forestry research at Harvard University
- presidential politics within media publications
- surgery research at University of Louisville Hospital
- Rural Health Project through East Tennessee State University
- laboratory work at Marathon Ashland plant
- physics research at Texas Christian University
- wildlife study at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee
- evolutionary genetics at University of South Carolina
- endocrine surgery at Johns Hopkins University
- environmental chemistry at the University of Montana
- life support design and engineering at NASA
- pharmacology research at the University of Kentucky
- research and analysis at National Capital Parks and Planning Commission

**Grants, Scholarships, and Internships**
Research opportunities abound at Centre at no additional cost. Most students complete their research projects as part of an independent study, which is covered by regular tuition. You may even receive academic credit for your research by registering for an independent study or internship. Tuition is the same as for a regular class, and the study is listed on your transcript. Some students also receive funding to present their research at regional conferences.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation recently awarded a four-year, $600,000 grant to Centre aimed specifically at increasing undergraduate research opportunities for our students. Details on the grant can be found at [www.centre.edu/academics/mellon-foundation-grant](http://www.centre.edu/academics/mellon-foundation-grant).

**The Research Advantage**
Students who complete advanced research cite many significant benefits. Clearly, independent and collaborative research promotes advanced learning, including extensive hands-on work with professional equipment such as a high field nuclear magnetic resonance imager, cryostat, fluorescence microscope, advanced software, and state-of-the-art glass-blowing facilities. Collaborative work provides the experience and contacts that may lead to jobs or graduate school fellowships. Many students’ research at Centre is so advanced that their work is selected for presentation at prestigious professional conferences or even publication.

For more information about student research, contact

Ben Knoll  
Assistant Professor of Politics  
859.238.5281  
benjamin.knoll@centre.edu

Carrie Frey  
Reference and Interlibrary Loan  
859.238.5275  
carrie.frey@centre.edu

For general information, contact  
Centre College Admission Office  
600 West Walnut Street  
Danville, Kentucky 40422-1394  
1.800.423.6236  
admission@centre.edu  
[www.centre.edu](http://www.centre.edu)