

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

ON- AND OFF-CAMPUS



"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 both on- and off-campus.

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; and Dr. Leonard Demoranville (chemistry) seeks students for his research on forensic trace analysis of illicit drugs.

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.

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/her project, and their research results are subsequently published.

Examples of recent student work:

- Design, synthesis, and screening of potential Alzheimer's disease therapeutics
- Nashville songwriter culture in film
- Thomas Jefferson and the church-state separation
- War tourism and the reconstruction of identity in the Channel Islands
- The economic dimension of Roman era villages in Galilee
- Impact of land-use practices on water quality
- The role of religious texts in a Muslim community's stance on gender and sexuality
- Consumerism and the Soviet Union
- Writing the gothic stories of Louisville

RICE SYMPOSIUM

The annual RICE symposium is a cross-disciplinary celebration of high-quality, independent student research, internships, and creative endeavors that provides students with an opportunity to learn what it is like to be part of an academic conference. Students in all disciplines and in all class years are invited to present in the form of a 15-minute presentation, poster, gallery display, or performance. For more information about RICE, visit www.centre.edu/rice-symposium.

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:

- endocrine surgery at Johns Hopkins University
- life support design and engineering at NASA
- forestry research at Harvard University
- presidential politics within media publications
- wildlife study at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee
- biomedical research at L'Institut de Génétique et de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire in Strasbourg, France
- materials chemistry at the National Institute of Standards and Technology
- surgery research at University of Louisville Hospital
- biometric security research at New York Institute of Technology's School of Engineering and Computing Sciences

Occasionally there are opportunities to travel beyond Centre's campus with a faculty member and apply scholarship to a broader community. For example, Dr. Robyn Cutright (anthropology) has traveled with students to Peru to conduct archaeological excavation in the foothills of the Andes. Dr. Sara Egge (history) conducted research on several projects, including traveling across Kentucky with students to conduct oral history interviews with 64 World War II veterans. Students working with both Cutright and Egge have written papers and presented their findings from this original research. Another group of students traveled with Dr. Tony Haigh (dramatic arts) to the Edinburgh Festival in the U.K. to perform a play they had developed.

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS

Research opportunities abound at Centre at no additional cost. Many students complete research projects by working during the summer with faculty mentors one-on-one or as part of a research team. Others complete their research projects as part of an independent study during the academic year, which is covered by regular tuition and often results in academic credit. 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 and national conferences.



Many other students choose to complete internships during the summer or academic year, often resulting in course credit for the experience.

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/mellon.

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, fluorescing 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 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT CENTRE COLLEGE, CONTACT:

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UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WEB PAGE
www.centre.edu/faculty-research