

Maryland Student Researchers

Maryland Center for Undergraduate Research

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www.ugresearch.umd.edu

The logo consists of a vertical stack of four letters: 'M', 'C', 'U', and 'R'. Each letter is white and set within a small red square. These four squares are arranged vertically and enclosed within a larger, light blue rectangular frame that has a slight 3D effect.

M
C
U
R

MARYLAND CENTER FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



What is undergraduate research?

- The two main activities at a university are a) teaching and b) research or scholarship, the pursuit of new knowledge and understanding.
- In your classes you learn what university researchers have discovered.
- By participating in your professors' research or scholarly work you become directly engaged in the process of discovery.
- Students in all majors/schools can engage in undergraduate research.



Who should do undergraduate research?

- Anyone who is intellectually passionate about a subject would benefit from engaging in the research process. You will:
 - Gain a deeper understanding of your subject
 - See firsthand how new knowledge and understanding comes about
 - Learn valuable new knowledge, skills, procedures, and habits
 - Develop strong relationships with mentors and peers who share your intellectual curiosity.



What is the experience of undergraduate research like?

- It may be paid or unpaid.
- You will carry out your activities anywhere from around 4 to more than 10 hours a week – this varies widely, and is up to you and your mentor.
- You should either have, or receive, training in any necessary skills.
- It's a real responsibility – your reliable and conscientious participation is important to the success of your professor's project.

Sounds Great! How do I get started in research?

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4. Visit your major department's website and learn about the many different research interests and activities of its professors.

Faculty & Research

Research is a vital component of the department's graduate & undergraduate students have impressive credentials, and the department employers.

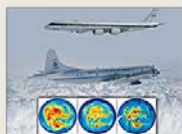
Click on images to learning more about what faculty members



Analytical Chemistry



Biochemistry



Environmental Chemistry



Enzymology

Faculty, Permanent & Emeriti

Permanent Faculty

Name	Email	Address
Chen, Feinian Professor	fchen1@umd.edu	3143 Art/Sociology Building (301) 405-6430
Cohen, Philip N. Professor	pnc@umd.edu	4127A Art/Sociology Building (301) 405-6414
Collins, Patricia Hill	collinh@umd.edu	4143 Art/Sociology Building

DEPARTMENT of HISTORY



History Directory

Filter by role: Faculty Field of Study: - Any -

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Elsa Barkley Brown
Associate Professor
History
Women's Studies

Richard James Bell
Associate Professor
History

Ira Berlin
Distinguished University Professor

The Department of MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

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- ALUMNI
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- EMPLOYMENT
- PHOTO GALLERIES

Faculty Directory

Faculty	Affiliate	Research	Visiting	Emeritus	Prof of Practice	Lecturers
Azarm, Shapour Professor Director, Design Decision Support Lab 2155 Glenn L. Martin Hall, Building 088 301-405-5250 azarm@umd.edu						
Balachandran, Balakumar Department Chair Minta Martin Professor Faculty Member, Applied Mathematics and Scientific Computation 2181 Glenn L. Martin Hall, Building 088 301-405-4747 balab@umd.edu						
Bar-Cohen, Avram Distinguished University Professor 2106B Glenn L. Martin Hall, Building 088 301-405-3173 abc@umd.edu						
Baz, Amr Minta Martin Professor Keystone Professor Director, Smart Materials and Structures Research Center 2137 Glenn L. Martin Hall, Building 088 301-405-5216 baz@umd.edu						
Bergbreiter, Sarah Associate Professor 2170 Glenn L. Martin Hall, Building 088						

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4. Visit your major department's website and learn about the many different research interests and activities of its professors.
5. Learn about options for earning credit for research in your major:
<http://www.ugresearch.umd.edu/current-researchinmajor.html>

Research in My Major

[A James. Clark School of Engineering](#)[College of Agriculture and Natural Resources](#)[School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation](#)[College of Arts and Humanities](#)[College of Behavioral and Social Sciences](#)[Robert H. Smith School of Business](#)[College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences](#)

But what about Maryland Student Researchers???

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<http://www.ugresearch.umd.edu/current-studentresearchers.html>

Maryland Student Researchers—Student Information Page

Faculty interested in posting undergraduate research opportunities please click [here](#).

The Maryland Student Researchers (MSR) program helps connect undergraduate students with professors seeking assistance with real research projects. The MSR program consists of a database that enables professors to post details about their research opportunities, and permits undergraduates to search effectively for opportunities that are a good fit for their interests and qualifications.

MSR research opportunities typically look for undergraduates willing to spend four to ten hours a week working under the mentorship of a professor on the professor's own research. Participating in an MSR project enables undergraduates to develop mentoring relationships with faculty, to learn more deeply about the process of discovery of new knowledge and information, and to make significant contributions to real research. Participating students gain valuable skills and experiences that will enhance their future studies as well as graduate school and/or employment qualifications.

MSR opportunities are open to students of all majors who want to engage in undergraduate research. Students interested in being considered for an MSR-listed research opportunity should apply directly to the researcher using the provided contact email address in each announcement— [all MSR placements are by mutual agreement between the researcher and the student applicant\(s\)](#). The MSR program does not place students in research positions.

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<http://www.ugresearch.umd.edu/current-studentresearchers.html>
5. Follow the advice and apply! Remember that MSR is the tip of an iceberg....

I've found some interesting Profs and projects through MSR or on my own – what next?

1. When you've identified a few Professors doing research that looks relevant and interesting, contact them by email or visit their office hours.
2. The MCUR website has clear advice and suggestions for contacting professors effectively:
<http://www.ugresearch.umd.edu/current-whatwhenwhy.html>
3. Be organized, polite, and persistent. Few students find a research opportunity on their first contact with a professor. Persistence pays off.
4. Follow-through matters – when you're offered an opportunity, take it seriously and do your best!

The What, Why, and When of Research

[Introduction and Overview: How Do I Get Involved in Research?](#)

All undergraduate students wanting to get involved in research do so through their own initiative. **MCUR cannot find a research opportunity for you**, but we can **advise you** on a search strategy for finding opportunities and point you towards appropriate resources.

When starting a search:

- Think carefully about whether you can commit to spending six to ten hours per week during the semester to working on a faculty-mentored research project. Your course work should be your priority, so do not take on a research project if it will put your academic work in jeopardy.
- **Start by talking with people you already know**—Talk to your current or past professors or your undergraduate major advisor.
- Survey the research being done by faculty members in your department or major. (The [Research in My Major page](#) on the MCUR website includes links to faculty directories for each academic department and program).
- Identify faculty members whose research looks interesting to you.

Next Steps:

1. Assess how ready you are to pursue a research opportunity.
2. Get started on your search for a research opportunity that is a good fit for you by talking with professors, peers, etc.
3. Make an appointment to talk with MCUR staff about your plans and interests.
4. Be realistic – the best way to find a rewarding first research experience is to be flexible, be willing to take ‘no’ for an answer, and be willing to learn.
5. Be organized about your search.
6. Be persistent – it can take a semester or more to find the right fit for you.