



Undergraduate Research @ Drexel University

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Office of Undergraduate Research Programs & Initiatives

- + Implementing the **STAR** (Students Tackling Advanced Research) Scholars Program
- + Managing *Discover* portal (www.drexel.edu/discover)
- + Providing funding for **conference presentations**
 - + Partial funding for students to present at discipline-specific conferences
 - + Full funding for students to present at specific undergraduate research conferences
- + Administering the High School Scholars Program



Undergraduate Research & Drexel Student Learning Priorities

- + Undergraduate Research as a Drexel Student Learning Priority (DSLPP):

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression:

Make meaningful contributions in their chosen field, participating in use-inspired (e.g., inspired by and applied to real-world problems) research, scholarship, and creative activity as an individual or in a collaborative effort

- + Undergraduate Research as supporting other DSLPPs
 - + Communication
 - + Creative and Critical Thinking
 - + Information Literacy
 - + Self-Directed Learning

**Undergraduate research is a
Drexel Student Learning
Priority and part of the
University's Strategic Plan.**



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Benefits of Participating in Undergraduate Research to Students

- + Gains in:
 - + Research skills
 - + Ability to work independently and in a team
 - + Communication skills (written, verbal)
- + Clarification of professional and academic goals
- + Deep immersion into chosen discipline (“learning by doing”)
- + Increased retention to graduation (96% retention rate for STAR Scholars)



Benefits of Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers to Faculty

- + Personal satisfaction of helping students grow and develop
- + Increase in personal skills related to teaching & research:
 - + Integrate Scholarship & Teaching
 - + Improve Collaborative skills
- + Students can provide intelligent and inexpensive labor and bring energy and enthusiasm to the research process
- + Mentoring students in undergraduate research can help connect faculty to the department and assist in tenure & promotion.



How Faculty Can Get Involved as Undergraduate Research Mentors

- + Hire students with **work/study funding** as research assistants
- + Work with students interested in conducting research for **academic credit**
- + Mentor students participating in **research co-ops**
- + Participate in the STAR Scholars Program as a **STAR Mentor**



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STAR Scholars Program

The STAR Scholars Program enables high-ability first-year students to conduct faculty-mentored research, scholarship, or creative work during summer between freshman and sophomore year.

- + Stipend and housing for students provided by Office of Undergraduate Research
- + Deliverables: Written abstract and research poster
- + Culminates with STAR Scholars Summer Showcase (poster presentation at end of summer)



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STAR Scholars Program

- + Is entering its 13th year (initiated in 2002-2003)
- + Has served **1000+ STAR Scholars** over the past 12 years
- + Will have **155 students** in the 2014-15 STAR Cohort
- + Serves students from **all colleges & disciplines**
- + Offers students permanent recognition in their student record (each student is tagged with a STAR attribute in Banner)



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Two-Phase Selection into the STAR Scholars Program

Phase 1: Students admitted to Drexel as STAR Scholars

- + Work with Enrollment Management to identify students with:
 - + High achievement (high GPA, high standardized test scores)
 - + Interest in attending Drexel
 - + Interest in participating in STAR Scholars Program
- + Accepted students invited to participate by letter from Dean of Pennoni Honors College
- + Fill approximately 30-40% of each cohort through Phase 1 admissions process
- + OUR staff begins meeting with accepted STAR Scholars as early as October of Fall Term



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Two-Phase Selection into the STAR Scholars Program

Phase 2: Students apply to the STAR Scholars Program in Winter Term of freshman year

- + Eligible students must:
 - + Be freshmen
 - + Have a minimum 3.2 cumulative GPA for Fall Term (strong preference given to students with 3.6+ cumulative GPA or better)
 - + Commit to 400 hours of mentored activity during Summer Term
- + Application includes:
 - + Online application
 - + Personal statement
 - + Faculty recommendation (from a Drexel faculty member)



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Responsibilities of STAR Scholars

We expect STAR Scholars to:

- + Maintain a minimum 3.4 cumulative GPA throughout freshman year
- + Identify, meet with, and secure a faculty mentor
 - + OUR staff provides advising to students; does not match students and faculty members
- + Complete all necessary paperwork
 - + Includes human resources paperwork and STAR Scholars paperwork (re: housing and hiring)
- + Complete 400 hours of mentored activity during the summer
- + Complete and submit a written abstract and research poster



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Responsibilities of STAR Mentors

We expect STAR Mentors to:

- + Post positions on the *Discover* website (www.drexel.edu/discover) and select from students already accepted into the Program
- + Provide a guided and hands-on learning environment for research, scholarship, or creative work
- + Provide students with opportunities for independent work while also providing guidance and feedback
- + Be on campus and available to STAR Scholar(s) for duration of Summer Term



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iSTAR Scholars Program

iSTAR Scholars Program – Created to provide STAR Scholars with an **international** research experience

- + Limited opportunities for students to travel with Drexel faculty to conduct field research internationally

 - + BEES (Sean O'Donnell); International Area Studies (Maria Hnaraki)

- + Two official iSTAR Sites:

 - + Saarbrücken, Germany: Engineering students

 - + Oulu, Finland: Engineering students, Environmental Science students

- + iSTAR sites created through international faculty collaborations

If you have international collaborations that are possibly appropriate for iSTAR, please let us know!



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Finding the Right Students through *Discover*


Discover is a secure online database for faculty to post open research positions and for students to search/apply for those positions. The website allows you to:

- + Advertise positions for work/study, volunteer, academic credit, co-op, STAR, etc.
- + Specify criteria for applicants (e.g., year in school, minimum GPA, required major, etc.)
- + Require specific documents with student applications (e.g., resume, cover letter)



Finding the Right Students through *Discover*

www.drexel.edu/discover

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RESEARCH BENEFITSSTAR SCHOLARS**RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSABOUT

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RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Getting Started

Finding a Mentor

Discover

Presenting Research

Undergraduate Research Grants

Research Opportunities at Other Universities

DISCOVER

Discover is the gateway for undergraduate students to engage in incredible opportunities in creative research projects across the disciplines of science, humanities, and the arts. Discover is an online database of open research positions available to undergraduate students. Faculty members are able to post open positions, and all undergraduate students are able to access this information, peruse the job postings, and apply for positions.

LOGGING INTO DISCOVER

To enter the Discover website, use the buttons below:

STUDENTS


FACULTY

ADVISORS

ADMINISTRATORS

Any questions or issues with entering the website can be sent to discover@drexel.edu.

*You will have to use your DrexelOne username and password to log into the Discover website.

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Supporting Student Conference Presentations

Travel/Research Grants available for students accepted to present work at discipline-specific conferences:

- + Up to **\$250** for domestic travel
- + Up to **\$500** for international travel

Full financial support for students who accepted to present at:

CAA Undergrad Research Conference | CUR Posters on the Hill
National Collegiate Research Conference | NCUR

Drexel University will host the Colonial Academic Alliance Undergraduate Research Conference in Spring 2015.



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Undergraduate Research for Work/Study

- + Research is work/study eligible activity
- + Students with work/study funding:
 - + Generally receive \$1,500-\$2,000 in work/study funding through academic year
 - + Often are younger students (in first, second, or third years)
 - + Can only work maximum of 10 hours per academic week in work/study
- + Students would be hired by department as work/study employees
- + Faculty and students would determine # of hours worked by student based on project needs and funding available



Undergraduate Research for Co-Op

- + Research co-ops organized through the Steinbright Career Development Center
- + SCDC offers limited grants for research co-ops; faculty often must provide matching funding
- + Requires **advanced** planning – hiring cycles occur 4-6 months prior to co-op cycle in question
 - + October-December for Spring/Summer co-op
 - + April-July for Fall/Winter co-op



Undergraduate Research for Academic Credit

- + Provision of academic credit determined through specific departments
- + Can provide independent studies for 1, 2 or 3 credits(dependent upon hours worked per week)
- + OUR currently considering options for creation of research-intensive course designation or zero-credit option to recognize curricular research on student transcripts



High School Scholars Program

The High School Scholars Program allows high-achieving high school students to take courses at Drexel free of tuition.

High School Scholars:

- + Must have completed freshman year before they can apply
- + Can only take courses in the College of Arts & Sciences, Goodwin College, and LeBow College of Business
- + Can only take courses that have no pre-requisites or restrictions
- + Earn official college credit and receive a Drexel transcript

The HSS Program served **95 students** in 2013-14 from 22 area schools.



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