Research Fields

Ecology

Cell and Developmental Biology

Evolutionary Biology

Genetics and Molecular Biology

Organismal and Behavioral Biology

Plant Biology
Undergraduate Research

Why?

What?

Where and How?
What has been your most valuable experience as a Biology major?

“Research. By far. I feel I have learned almost as much working in labs as I have in my classes.”

“If I could change only one thing about the Biology program at UNC, I would make BIOL 395 a requirement (toss out something like ________ to make room for it, if needed). It's an invaluable experience that I think all science majors should undertake.”
Why?

“I consider doing research in the future”

“I DON’T know what I want to do”
Three options of research

- For credit
- Get paid
- Volunteer

Research for credit is not a must, but is preferable

Research for credit is restricted- only Biology majors
What?

- You will be mentored by a lab member
- Learn about the **big picture** and how your **project** fits into the picture
- Learn the basic techniques
- Gradually become more and more independent (in skills AND thinking)
- Meet with your supervisor and participate in lab meetings
- Write a 10-page paper at the end
Credit for Research

BIOL 395

- Prerequisites: 201 or 202
  GPA 2.0 or better

- Duration: 1-2 semesters (up to 6 credit hr.)
  - may be continued as 495 with P/F

- Credit: 3-5 hr. count as a biology elective
  6 hr. count as a biology elective w/ lab
Counts as Experiential Education
Preference to honors, but also open for non-honors

Critical review of scientific papers

Research presentations
BIOL 293 - Internship

- Prerequisites: 201 or 202
  GPA > 2.0

- Location: Off campus (e.g. RTP, Alaska)

- Credit: Does NOT count as a biology elective
  Counts for your 120/123 hr.
  Counts as Experiential Education

- Payment: possible

- Make sure it is approved IN ADVANCE
  Dr. Jennifer Coble [JCoble@bio.unc.edu]
BIOL 395 can be taken in the summer (135 hrs. of lab work)

It does involve registering to summer school (and that means paying for summer school...)

But maybe not...

http://our.unc.edu/students/funding-opportunities/summer-award-for-research-intensive-courses/

Another option: find a paid/volunteer research position, continue with research for credit in the fall semester
692H

Honors thesis

Final year

Prereqs: at least 1 semester of 395 and a GPA of 3.3. or higher (cumulative and biology)
1) **You have to FIND a lab:** search department websites on your own, look for flyers around science buildings

2) **APPROACH the "P.I." (principal investigator)**

3) **ASK/APPLY for a position** (via email with a resume or by walking over to the lab). Impress them like you would do for any job interview. **Address these questions:** Why do you want to do research? What do you want to do it in their lab? What are your strengths? What courses have you taken that are relevant?

“to whom it may concern”

[https://bio.unc.edu/undergraduate/](https://bio.unc.edu/undergraduate/)
Where?

1. http://www.bio.unc.edu/

2. http://bbsp.unc.edu/research
OUR

Office of Undergraduate Research

http://www.unc.edu/depts/our/
“I couldn’t find any lab position”

Stand out in class and discuss research opportunities with your professor

Look for positions of lab technician and lab assistant
Finally, I found a lab, how do I register?

- Pick up a form from Student Services at 213 Coker

- The form requires your PI’s signature. Fill out the form and bring it back. Ms. Summer Montgomery will enroll you

- Deadline: 1st day of the semester
Finally, I found a lab, how do I register?

- If the research is performed in another department, you must identify a Biology sponsor.
Undergraduate Research Consultants
URCTs

Any questions:

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