

Undergraduate Research in Departmental Curriculum

2017-2018 Working Group

Description:

The Center for Undergraduate Research invites teams of 2-5 faculty and instructors from the same department to participate in a working group about research and creative work in the department's undergraduate curriculum. The purpose of the group is to facilitate conversations about and develop resources for research/creative skill development that spans multiple undergraduate courses.

Examples of types of groups & possible areas of focus include:

- **Course:** The department would like to include an introduction to statistics in an entry-level class that is taught by different instructors. The group of instructors develops common learning outcomes, instructional videos, class activities, and assessment plans that any instructor could use.
- **Course sequence:** A department has a two-course sequence where research skills are developed, but would benefit from more coordination. The group sets clearer expectations for what should be taught in which course, and develops resources for these instructors to use.
- **Degree-level learning outcome:** The department has a degree-level learning outcome that relates to research, but instruction is currently uncoordinated and seniors are often not prepared to undertake a research project as part of a capstone course. The group maps out current efforts in the department, creates a plan for when this skill should be introduced, reinforced, and mastered, and develops an assessment plan that can be included in the degree-level assessment report for the department.

Participating teams will learn about models and best practices for incorporating research into undergraduate courses and curriculum, have dedicated work time to accomplish their group's goals, and have the option of having a funded [Graduate Research Consultant](#) position that can work on developing resources (instructional videos, rubrics, lesson plans, etc.) to support shared learning outcomes (see details below). Working group meetings will include large group discussion and time for focused work among the teams on their departmental efforts.

Details:

- **Eligibility/ Team members:** To be most helpful, all members of the team should have direct responsibility for or involvement with the course(s) that the group will discuss, and/or be involved with work in the department related to undergraduate curriculum. All faculty and

instructional staff are eligible to be part of the department's team; graduate students will preferably serve only in a role as a GRC (see below), not as a regular team member.

- **Meeting times:** The group will meet 6 times for 90 minute lunch sessions (lunch will be provided). Meeting dates will be (all Fridays, from noon-1:30): Sept 1, Sept 22, Nov 3, Jan 26, Feb 9, & April 20. Participants can expect to spend approximately one hour reviewing materials that will be provided prior to each meeting. Your departmental team may also decide to have goals to work toward between meeting dates that might require additional time.

Graduate Research Consultant (GRC) information:

To provide logistical support to move the work of your group forward, each departmental group will have the option of selecting one graduate student to serve as a [Graduate Research Consultant \(GRC\)](#) for the fall and the spring semester. The GRC can provide up to 30 hours of support during each semester. While regular GRCs work with a particular course, GRCs through this working group will be developing shared resources that multiple instructors could use to develop research skills across many courses, such as instructional videos, assessment plans, lesson plans, etc. The GRC would attend a half-day training in August and would ideally be able to attend the working group meetings with the rest of the group. The Center for Undergraduate Research would pay for the \$1,000 GRC awards (\$500 for fall, \$500 for spring).

If your group were selected to participate in the working group, you would select the graduate student that you would like to serve as your GRC (this is slightly different from the regular GRC program, which requires the instructor and GRC to apply together). Ideally, the same graduate student would be able to serve as a GRC for the fall and spring semester to ensure continuity, but this is not required. You do not need to have the graduate student selected at the time of applying for the working group.

If you would like ideas about how your group could utilize a GRC, or would like help identifying a graduate student who might be a good fit, contact Nikki Perry at cur@ku.edu.

If your group would prefer not to have a GRC, that is perfectly fine--you can still participate in the working group!

To participate:

If interested, fill out this short interest form by **Saturday, July 15th, 2017:**

<https://ugresearch.ku.edu/working-group> Participants in the group will be announced by August 1.

Questions?: Email the Center for Undergraduate Research at cur@ku.edu.