High-Impact Practice (HIP): Undergraduate Research

Definition of Undergraduate Research

"A mentored investigation or creative inquiry conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or artistic contribution to knowledge" (Council on Undergraduate Research).

Characteristics of a HIP Undergraduate Research

1. Performance expectations set at appropriately high levels
    - Students are engaged in all aspects of the research process, making meaningful contributions to the work.
2. Significant Investment of time and effort over an extended period
    - Students spend significant time and energy working on their research and working toward dissemination.
3. Interactions with faculty and peers about substantive matters
    - Students work closely with their faculty mentor and teammates to achieve their research goals.
4. Experiences with diversity
    - Students engage with diverse community members and worldviews, fostering intercultural competence.
5. Frequent, timely, and constructive feedback
    - Students submit drafts of their abstracts, presentations, and publications before disseminating their work.
6. Periodic, structured opportunities to reflect and integrate learning
    - Students reflect on their research experiences and integrate course learning into their projects.
7. Opportunities to discover relevance of learning through real-world applications
    - Students work on research with real-world implications, generating excitement about their work.
8. Public demonstration of competence
    - Students present and publish their research locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Documented Impacts of Undergraduate Research

- Improved critical thinking and problem solving
- Improved teamwork skills
- Improved public speaking
- Improved writing skills

Checklist to Undergraduate Research HIP

- ❑ The research is supervised by a faculty member who has the necessary skill set to effectively mentor research projects in this course.
- ❑ The research projects meet the ethical and safety guidelines for responsible conduct of research.
- ❑ The undergraduate research experience is appropriately scaffolded.
- ❑ The syllabus contains a list of measurable learning outcomes geared toward undergraduate research or creative inquiry in this discipline.
- ❑ There are frequent opportunities for students to receive feedback.
- ❑ If the undergraduate research or creative inquiry is a group, rather than individual, project, then the project is structured according to best practices for collaborative projects.
- ❑ The research projects have the potential to make an original contribution to the literature in this discipline.
- ❑ There is a tangible product at the end of the experience (paper, poster, oral presentation, etc.).
- ❑ There is a plan to disseminate this product publicly.

Resources

- Office of Undergraduate Research at KSU
- Council on Undergraduate Research