

The importance of doing  
research as an undergrad  
and

HOW TO GO ABOUT  
DOING IT

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# Why Research?

- Course projects have fixed and expected outcomes
- Creativity
- Innovation
- Lead the world with research
  - NIH (health sciences)
  - NASA (space sciences)

# Find Out for Yourself!!

- Many research opportunities for undergrads at Maryland
  - Undergraduate Research Assistant Program
  - University Honors Program
  - GEMSTONE program
  - Independent study

# URAP

- URAP (Undergraduate Research Assistant Program)
  - administered by the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Studies
- Introduces undergraduates to research
- Students spend four to six hours a week working on a faculty member's research
- Receive an **Undergraduate Research Assistant** notation on their transcript

# URAP

- URAP is non-competitive
  - open to students of all majors and disciplines
  - do not have to be an "A" student
    - good academic standing
      - minimum grade point average of 2.0
    - at least 15 credits completed at College Park
- Student working with me through URAP
  - Seminar, Research Paper, Conference Travel
- <http://www.ugresearch.umd.edu/URAP/URAP.htm>

# University Honors Program

- Long-established program for the most talented students on campus in their first two years
- UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN HONORS
  - offers opportunities to explore research via coursework and/or independent research
  - HONR 169Z interdisciplinary lecture-discussion course
    - Introduces students to the kinds of questions that scholars in a variety of academic fields bring to the pursuit of knowledge

# Undergraduate Research In Honors

## - HONR 200

- for students in their first year
- learn about faculty research
- explore practical/ethical issues surrounding research

## - HONR 201

- Independent study

# Honors In Junior & Senior Years

- May choose to continue in one of the 40 Departmental Honors programs
- Narrow your focus from the broad-based nature of the first two years of Honors work
- Departmental programs usually involve working closely with a faculty mentor on an independent research project that often culminates in an Honors thesis
- My Honors student
  - Reverse Engineer MS Office
- <http://www.honors.umd.edu/>

# GEMSTONE

- Honors students are invited to participate in Gemstone
  - A unique program that integrates technological and social issues into team research projects guided by a faculty mentor and spanning all four undergraduate years
- <http://gemstone.umd.edu>

# Independent Research

- Talk to Faculty
- Work with them on their research projects