Discovery Learning Apprenticeship Program

Hands-on research for undergraduate students

www.colorado.edu/engineering/activelearning/discovery
Earn money while engaging in hands-on research with faculty!

The Discovery Learning Apprenticeship (DLA) program pairs undergraduate students with CU faculty for a paid, year-long research experience. Learn the ins and outs of research on original projects related to water treatment, wireless power, genome mapping, biomaterials, shape memory polymers, robotics, satellite collision avoidance, and others.

As a Discovery Learning apprentice you'll learn hands-on techniques and gain insight into a field of study that interests you. Plus you'll acquire essential skills such as time management, flexibility, and teamwork that are keys to success in business and life.

Whether you intend to begin a career in industry, aspire to do research, or plan to go on to graduate school, a DLA will prepare you to be a technological, academic, and creative leader in today’s ever-changing global society.

How it Works

Each April, undergraduate students can view a list of positions and apply to become a Discovery Learning Apprentice for the following academic year.

Jobs are posted in the Engineering Center lobby and online at: www.colorado.edu/engineering/activelearning/discovery/apprenticeship

You are not restricted to positions in your major. Feel free to apply for a project outside your discipline as long as you have the skills/experience required.

Students are matched with positions based on their experience and interest and the needs and approval of the hiring lab/faculty. Students may be asked to interview with the faculty member hosting the position. You will be notified in early June if you have been selected to participate in this competitive program for the upcoming academic year.
Program Specifics

Hourly Wages: Discovery Learning apprentices will earn approximately $12/hour for the academic year.

Time Commitment: About 10 hours per week, 15 weeks per semester, for a total of approximately 150 hours per semester

Expectations:
- Research tasks as stated in the position description
- 2-3 page paper explaining your work due in the fall
- Presentation at research symposium in the spring
- Attendance at three hour-long seminars during academic year
- Periodic meetings with program director and graduate mentor

Who Should Apply

The Discovery Learning Apprenticeship Program is open to undergraduate engineering students at all class levels who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

You should definitely consider applying if you:
- Plan to attend graduate school
- Are interested in a job in research
- Want to earn the Active Learning award at graduation:
  A DLA fulfills the research component of the award. More information on the Active Learning Award can be found at: www.colorado.edu/engineering/activelearning/award

“My DLA project with Mike Eisenberg developed my skills in teaching engineering principles through the use of 3D automaton models. I use these skills in my career at Google in both the development and teaching of their 3D modeling tool, SketchUp. Understanding the learning process that beginners encounter has helped me to be a better designer.”

—Simone Nicolo, former Discovery Learning Apprentice
How to Apply

It’s easy to apply for a Discovery Learning Apprenticeship!
Just follow the checklist below:

- Complete an application; details available online at
  www.colorado.edu/engineering/activelearning/discovery
- Attach a resume and cover letter. Write a convincing cover letter as to why you
  are the best candidate for the positions you select!
- Apply for multiple positions. Applying for five different positions will improve your
  chances of being selected for the program. Remember, it’s okay to apply for a
  position outside your major – just be sure to explain your qualifications in your
  cover letter.
- Explain your GPA if needed. Students with a GPA of 3.2 or above have the best
  chance of being selected for this competitive program. If your GPA is below
  3.2, please explain in your cover letter why you believe you would still be a
  good candidate for this program.
- Submit before the April 30 deadline. No late applications will be accepted.

Other Research Opportunities

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP):
  enrichment.colorado.edu/urop

Bioscience Undergraduate Research Skills and Training (BURST):
  www.colorado.edu/Outreach/BSI/undergrad/burst.html

Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU):
  www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm

The McNair Program:
  www.colorado.edu/SASC/mcnair.html

Independent Study:
  www.colorado.edu/engineering/sites/default/files/Independent_Study.pdf

Need more information?

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