Curiosity Lab: CEAS
10/20/25

Sharon E. Anderson
Director of Undergrad
College of Engineering & Applied Science

Grace Griffith
Undergraduate Research Programs Coordinator
College of Engineering & Applied Science

Engineering Career Hub
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Undergrad Research Team

- Sharon E. Anderson
- Director of Undergraduate Research
- Oversee UG Research and Internship for Credit Program
- Co-Instruct FUTURE course with Grace

Undergrad Research Team

- Grace Griffith
- Undergraduate Research Programs Coordinator
- Co-instruct FUTURE seminar course with Sharon

Why be involved in UG research?

A research experience offers many benefits:

- Mentorship from faculty and graduate students
- Development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Effective career preparation

From the Council on Undergraduate Research:

- “More than 80 percent of employers expect students to have strong skills in communication, problem solving, and critical thinking; and more than 90 percent of employers think these skills are more valuable than a student’s specific major.“

What does this mean for you?

Gain Relevant Experience:

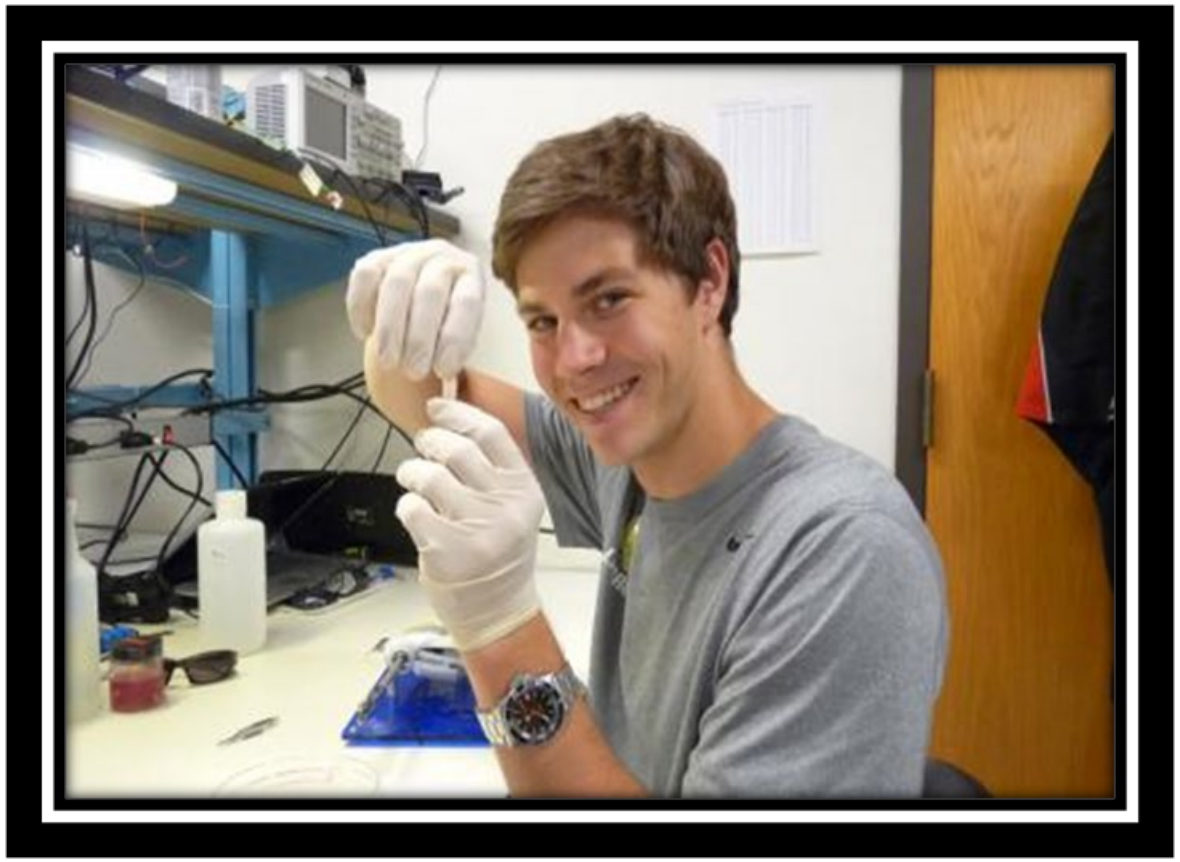
- Work in a research lab
- Use the theories you're learning in the classroom, which will help solidify those concepts.
- Prototyping an experience to see if it something you're interested in pursuing.

Grow Your Network:

- Working with faculty members, post docs, graduate students, and/or undergraduate students

Engineering Career Hub Resources

Research Opportunities



Fundamentals of Undergraduate Research (FUTURE)

- Undergraduates paired with a graduate student mentor.
- Attend one credit seminar course during spring semester.
- Time commitment of 3-5 hours per week in lab.
- Create a poster about their research at end of semester.
- Only open to BOLD scholars, Campos Student Center society members, and Lattice Scholars.

Fundamentals of Undergraduate Research
(FUTURE)

- Email with application link was sent out to all eligible students on 10/10.

- Can apply for up to 5 projects.

- Must be able to attend the required seminar which will be on ONE of the following days/times:

  Tuesdays: 2:00 PM – 2:50 PM

  Wednesdays: 2:30 PM – 3:20 PM

  Wednesdays: 3:35PM – 4:25 PM

CU Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (CU SPUR)

- Students work up to 30 hours per week in a research lab over 10 weeks.
- Students are paid at least campus minimum wage (currently, $16.82/hr) and are required to attend professional development seminars.
- Each student is required to make a final presentation.
- ~125 positions available each summer (may change in 2026).
- Application opens early February.
- Deadline to apply is late February/early March.

Discovery Learning Apprentice (DLA)

- Year-long, hands-on research experience.
- Students work up to 10 hours per week in a research lab.
- Students are paid at least campus minimum wage (currently, $16.82/hr) and are required to attend professional development seminars.
- Final presentation due at the end of the spring semester; may move on to a poster presentation.
- ~90 positions available each year.
- Application opens early April, closes mid-May.

Independent Study

- Students can receive academic credit for conducting an Independent Study with a faculty member.
- Typically consists of directed research with final deliverable (e.g., a written paper/report)
- Must find a faculty member willing to work with them.
- Must have Independent Study for credit approved to register.

Work Study

- Students who are awarded Work Study as part of their financial aid package can be paid with these funds in a research position.
- Let faculty know you have work study funding that can be used to pay you for work in their labs.
- Work study pays 70% of student salary, faculty pays 30%.

What do students say about their research experiences??

“The great thing about this program is that it forces you to develop independent learning skills.”

“It was an awesome experience being able to feel what it's really like to work on research and come up with answers that are actually important in the real world.”

“It was an awesome experience being able to feel what it's really like to work on research and come up with answers that are actually important in the real world.”

“It allowed me to put my learning in the classroom into practice. Coding for an assignment and learning algorithms are one thing, but being able to apply those skills and see exactly why what we learn in class is important is incredibly useful.”

–"My opportunity definitely assisted in landing me a job after graduation."

–"I landed a big internship at Ball Aerospace for this summer, and I believe this apprenticeship played a big role in demonstrating my drive and competence."

CU SPUR, DLA, and FUTURE Application Info/Tips:

- *FUTURE application was emailed to eligible students in good academic standing (2.0 GPA or higher) on October 10th.*
- *Deadline to apply is November 3rd.*
- *Notified late November/early December.*

CU SPUR, DLA, and FUTURE Application Info/Tips:

- *CU SPUR application will be emailed to students in good academic standing (2.0 GPA or higher) in early February.*
- *Deadline to apply is late February or early March.*
- *Notified by early April.*

CU SPUR, DLA, and FUTURE Application Info/Tips:

- *DLA application will be emailed to students in good academic standing (2.0 GPA or higher) in late March.*
- *Deadline to apply is mid May.*
- *Notified early July.*

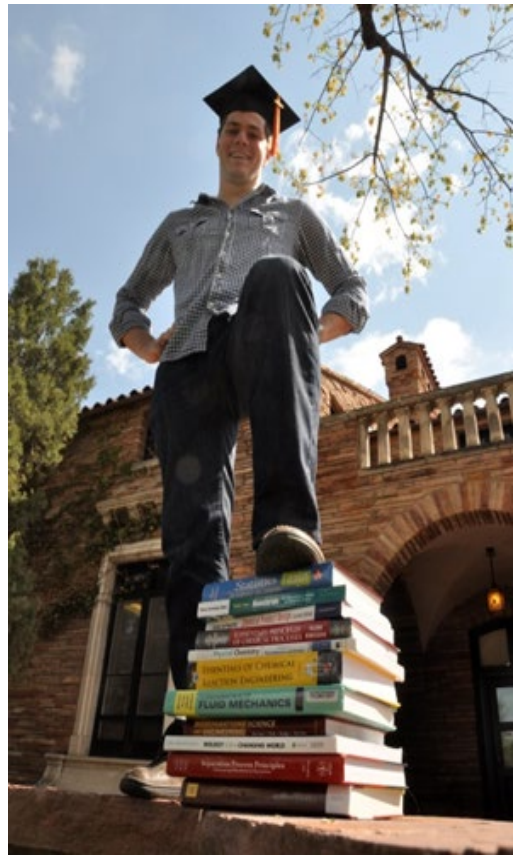
CU SPUR, DLA, and FUTURE Application Info/Tips:

- *Watch the "Preparing to Apply for SPUR/DLA" Webinar*
- *Goes over program details, as well as resume and cover letter tips.*

Words of Wisdom

If you're interested in research you're going to have to knock on some doors:

- ➢ *Be persistent*
- ➢ *Check out the professor's website and their research project before you visit them.*
- ➢ *Applying for UROP funding and/or other grants makes you more desirable to a research lab since it cuts the cost for the professor.*
- ➢ *Consider an independent study with a faculty member.*



Things to Consider

- **A research position involves a substantial time commitment, so look carefully at your schedule and academic workload before applying!**

- **Don’t rush to submit your application.**

- **Application review for CU SPUR, DLA, and FUTURE will not begin until the application is closed.**

Questions???

Please feel free to contact Sharon or Grace:

- Our offices are located in “The HUB” in the North Wing of the Engineering Center

Sharon.E.Anderson@Colorado.Edu

Grace.Griffith-1@Colorado.Edu

Engineering Career Hub

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www.colorado.edu/engineering/careerhub

engcareerhub@colorado.edu

Engineering Center, ECNW 150