UROP Curiosity Lab

Survey of Campus Undergraduate Research Programs

Updated: November 2026

Agenda

- McNair Scholars
- STEM Routes
- Arts & Sciences
- Engineering & Applied Science
- Departments
- Institutes & Centers
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- **Next Session:** Exploring Summer Undergraduate Research

McNair Scholars

McNair participants are undergraduates who have demonstrated high academic potential and are either

- first-generation students with financial need, or
- members of a group that is traditionally underrepresented in graduate education as defined by federal TRIO regulations.

Details:

https://www.colorado.edu/mcnair/

UROP Note

Can be an empowering entry-level program for eligible students interested in UROP or an enabling next step.

STEM Routes: Uplift Research Program

Uplift empowers you to pursue your path in STEM through structured research training and support in your negotiation of your professional identity in your field.

- Teaches you how to conduct research through hands-on training and your own research project,
- Connects you with a CU research lab (including a research mentor),
- Funds your research training experience ($3,000 over 24 weeks), and more!

Details:

https://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/stemroutes/uplift-research-program

UROP Note

Can be an empowering entry-level program for STEM students interested in UROP.

Arts & Sciences:

Studio Lab

Studio Lab admits undergraduates who are matched with mentor-led projects from a wide array of disciplines in the College of Arts & Sciences. They hold social events for students and mentors and host an end-of-year reception at which participants present their work in a poster session.

Details:

https://www.colorado.edu/research/studiolab/

UROP Note

Can be an empowering entry-level program for College of Arts & Sciences students interested in UROP.

Engineering & Applied Science:
DLA, CU-SPUR, FUTURE

The College of Engineering & Applied Science hosts a range of programs to engage students in the research activity in the college:

- **DLA:** Discovery Learning Apprenticeships
- **CU-SPUR:** Summer Program for Undergrad Research
- **FUTURE:** Fundamentals of Undergraduate Research

Details:

https://www.colorado.edu/engineering/students/research

UROP Note

Can be empowering entry-level programs for College of Engineering & Applied Science students interested in UROP or an enabling next step.

Departments

Psychology & Neuro., EBIO, Physics, etc.

Psychology & Neuroscience:

https://www.colorado.edu/psych-neuro/undergraduate-research-resources-and-offerings

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology:

https://www.colorado.edu/ebio/undergraduate/research-opportunities-undergraduates

Physics:

https://www.colorado.edu/physics/academics/undergraduate-students/undergraduate-research-opportunities

More:

Find department-level programs by exploring your department website, where you'll often find major-specific resources and opportunities.

UROP Note

Can be empowering entry-level programs for eligible majors interested in UROP or an enabling next step.

Institutes & Centers

NIST, INSTAAR, Crown, Benson, etc.

NIST-SURF: Summer Undergrad. Research

https://www.nist.gov/surf

INSTAAR: Arctic & Alpine Research

https://www.colorado.edu/instaar/prospective-students/undergrad-opportunities

Crown Wellness Center:

https://crowninstitute.colorado.edu/learn/students/fellowships-and-scholarships/undergraduate-research-fellowship

Benson Center for Western Civilization:

https://www.colorado.edu/center/benson/ufp

More:

https://www.colorado.edu/urop/exploring/curiosity-lab/self-paced-resources/engage/campus-programs/campus-institutes-centers

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Community-Engaged

CU in the City, Public Achievement, etc.

CU in the City

https://www.colorado.edu/artsandsciences/cu-city-community-scholars-and-capitol-scholars

Public Achievement Program

https://www.colorado.edu/publicachievement/

Public Interest Internship Experience (PIIE)

https://www.colorado.edu/career/cu-piie

SPIKE Scholars

https://www.colorado.edu/center/spike/spike-center-student-scholars

More:

https://www.colorado.edu/urop/exploring/curiosity-lab/self-paced-resources/engage/campus-programs/community-engaged

UROP Note

Though these programs don't necessarily involve research or creative production, the experiential opportunities could involve, or lead to, projects that meet the criteria of a UROP proposal.

Space

LASP, CO Space Grant, etc.

Laboratory for Atmospheric & Space Physics

https://lasp.colorado.edu/information/undergraduates/

Boulder Solar Alliance REU Program

https://lasp.colorado.edu/reu/

Colorado Space Grant Consortium

https://www.colorado.edu/center/spacegrant/

Astrophysical & Planetary Sciences

https://www.colorado.edu/aps/undergraduate-studies/research-opportunities/aps-researchemployment-opportunities

More:

https://www.colorado.edu/urop/exploring/curiosity-lab/self-paced-resources/engage/campus-programs/space

UROP Note

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Resources

UROP's Index of Campus Programs

https://www.colorado.edu/urop/exploring/curiosity-lab/self-paced-resources/engage/campus-programs

UROP's Index of External Pathways Programs & Resources

https://www.colorado.edu/urop/exploring/curiosity-lab/self-paced-resources/engage/pathways-resources

Contact

- **Website:** https://www.colorado.edu/urop/
- **Email:** urop@colorado.edu
- **LinkedIn:** https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12274488/

Next Session:

Exploring Summer Undergraduate Research

We'll provide an introduction to opportunities for undergraduate research and creative work beyond CU Boulder, highlighting key databases, search strategies and timelines.

Upcoming Sessions

- **Mon., Nov. 16, 2026**, 4:40 - 5:10 pm
- **Tues., Nov. 17, 2026**, 12:30 - 1:00 pm