



Engineering & Applied Science  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



**ProReady**

# Undergrad Research Team

- Sharon E. Anderson
- Director of Active Learning
- Oversee UG Research and Internship  
for Credit Program



# Undergrad Research Team

- Grace Griffith
- Undergraduate Research Programs Coordinator



# 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?

[ProReady](#): 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.

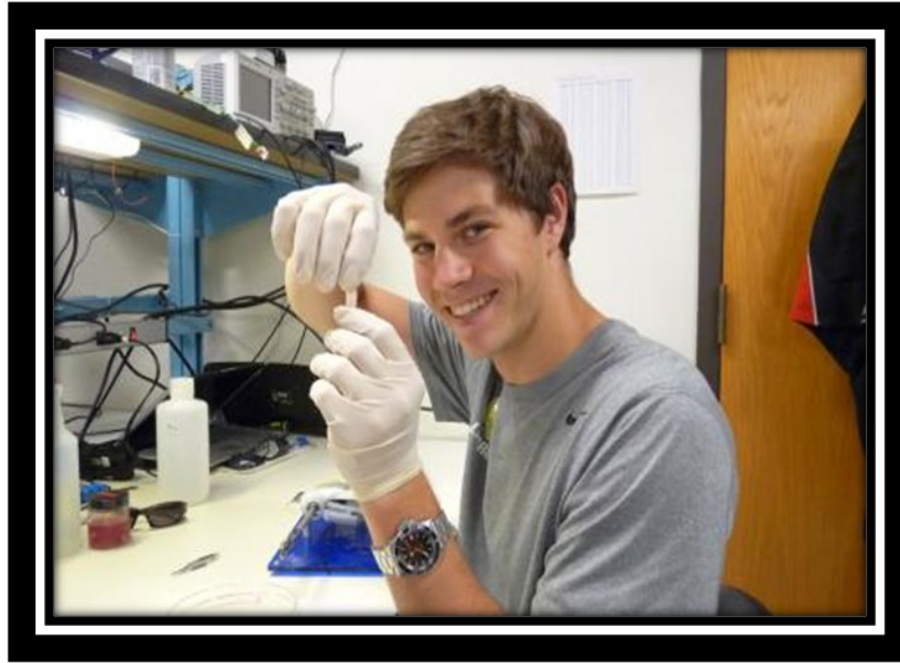
[ProReady](#): Grow Your Network:

- Working with faculty members and graduate student

[ProReady Planning Guide](#)



# Research Opportunities



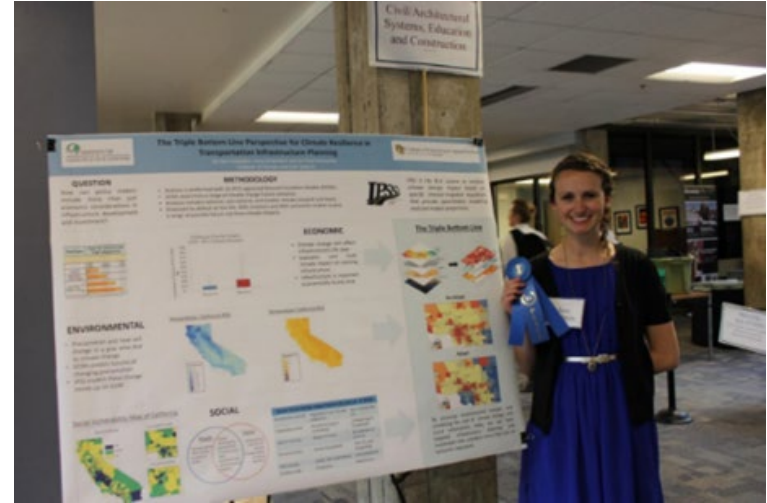
# CU Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (CU SPUR)

- Students work up to 30 hours per week in a research lab over 10 weeks.
- Students are paid \$16/hr and are required to attend professional development seminars.
- Each student is required to make a final presentation.
- ~90 positions available each summer (may change in 2025).
- Application opens early February, 2025.
- Deadline to apply is late February/early March, 2025.



# Discovery Learning Apprentice (DLA)

- Year-long, hands-on research experience.
- Students work up to 10 hours per week in a research lab.
- Students 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
- Hourly Wage: \$16 per hour.
- Application opens early April 2025, closes mid May 2025.





# Fundamentals of Undergraduate Research

## (FUTURE)

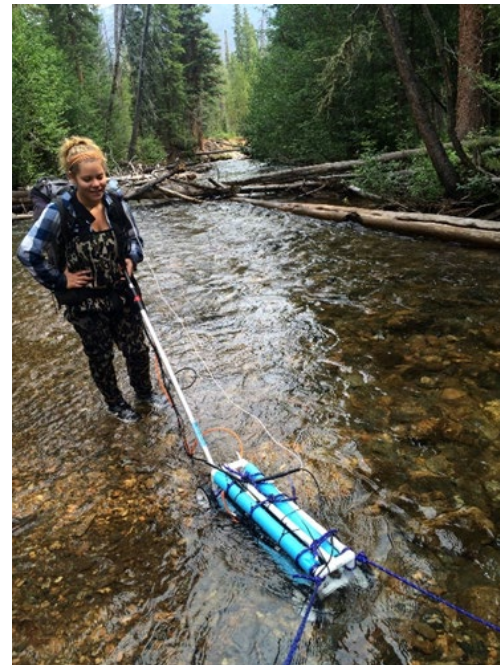
- Undergraduates paired with a graduate student mentor.
- One credit seminar course during spring semester.
- Time commitment 3-5 per week.
- Create a poster about their research at end of semester.
- Only open to BOLD scholars, BOLD society members, and Lattice Scholars.



# Fundamentals of Undergraduate Research

## (FUTURE)

- Email with application link will be sent out to all eligible students on 10/28.
- Can apply for up to 5 projects.
- Will be matched with a graduate student on a small project.
- Must be able to attend the required seminar which will be:  
Tuesdays: 2:00 PM – 2:50 PM in the Engineering HUB.



# 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 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 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 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 Application Info/Tips:***

- *Reach out to faculty/grad students to find out more about the project*
- *Apply to up to 5 projects, ranked in order of preference*
- *Write a thoughtful cover letter, address all the requirements and why you are interested in the project and why you would be a good fit.*



# ***CU SPUR & DLA Application Info/Tips:***

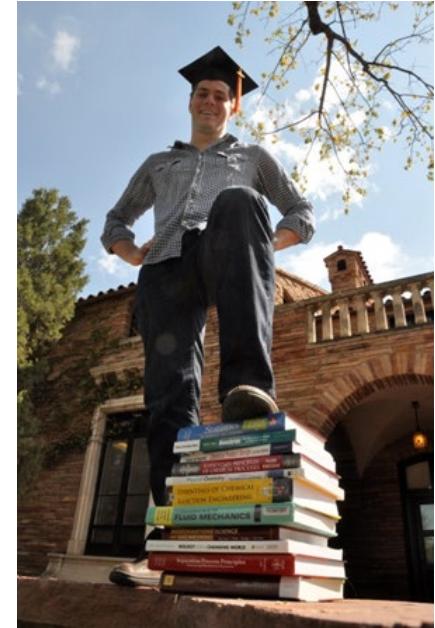
- Watch the [\*“Preparing to Apply for SPUR/DLA” Webinar\*](#)
  - *Goes over program details, as well as resume and cover letter tips.*



# 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, 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

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