ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

UROP DEPARTMENT GRANT
Cultivating a Culture of Inquiry Beyond the Classroom
CULTIVATING A *CULTURE* OF INQUIRY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM
STUDENT-DRIVEN OBJECTIVES

- **understand** the need
  - what kind of research info/support do students want?
  - what kinds of resources already exist?
  - what kind of access do students want?

- **design** a tool/resource to help students access what they need

- **generate** a prototype to yield insight about design and serve as a model for further development

- **recommend** next steps toward sustainability
UNDERSTANDING THE NEED

- classroom discussions
- online student survey
- review of existing resources/opportunities
- professor/researcher/staff interviews
- workshops with prototype
- student researcher panel
DESIGNING A TOOL & GENERATING A PROTOTYPE

- WORKSHOPS AND PANELS
- ONLINE RESEARCH HUB
AMBITION IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS SUCCESS

WHY RESEARCH?

Research is an important part of a college education. Exposure to research at an early stage will allow students to learn about current problems in their field of interest and the ongoing projects that are being done to answer them. Students will have the opportunity to work alongside renowned professors and gain skills that will prepare them for a future career in industry.

Check out the Templates Tab for Resume and Cover Letter Tips!

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"If you have built castles in the air your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."

- Henry David Thoreau
PROFESSIONAL CHECKLIST

In the checklist below, you will discover different templates to help guide you while organizing your professional toolkit. Preparing the following documents can facilitate the process of applying for engineering internships. By clicking on each icon, you can access example templates.

EMAIL FORMAT

It is important to pay attention to the email format when you are writing to your professor asking for a research opportunity, or company to learn about internships. Professionalism is a key component in writing emails, and that includes being formal, specific, and polite. First impression is everything.

RESUME

A resume is a very essential document that students should have. It is typically a one-page summary of your academic achievements, leadership skills, and work history. Preparing a well-structured resume can help you get an internship, job, or research position. Click here for resume ideas.

LINKEDIN

Networking is a valuable skill to have. LinkedIn is a digital platform that helps people network professionally with other students, employees, and companies. Click here to join the ELP LinkedIn group and make your first connections.

COVER LETTER

Most internships require a cover letter and resume. In a cover letter, you provide additional information about your skills and experience. The letter should express your qualifications for the position you are applying for and discuss how your skills and expertise can add value to the company.
CAREER SERVICES
An excellent campus resource, career services is full of friendly, knowledgeable people ready to help you with all your career needs. Resume tips, cover letters, mock interviews— they do it all. There is also currently an office in the Engineering Building by the Bold Center, meet us there when you get the chance.

Click here to go to Career Services

BOLD CENTER
The BOLD center is a great resource here at CU. Scholarships, tutoring, and opportunities abound—check it out!

Click here to go to the BOLD page

LYNDA
Lynda is a great resource to learn outside of the classroom. Available through MyCUInfo, you have access to many courses and helpful tutorials for free! Just sign in with your CU email and you're good to go.

Click Here to go to Lynda
TESTIMONIALS FROM STUDENTS INVOLVED IN RESEARCH

Testimonial 1:
- priesthood and professional ethics. And don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Communicate skills, critical thinking, general chemistry and circuitry, aubility.

Testimonial 2:
- Text to profession. Many have had success in getting a security job, and all have taken classes that have helped them in their field.
- Being a hands-on job, the job requires you to think outside the box. This was a benefit to me, as I was able to use the concepts I learned in class.

Testimonial 3:
- My professor really helped me understand the research and its importance. He was always available to answer questions and give advice.
- I really enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the research. The ability to make a real contribution to the field was very rewarding.

Testimonial 4:
- I believe that my experience in the research laboratory has been enriching. I have learned about the importance of teamwork and collaboration.
- I have also learned about the importance of critical thinking and problem-solving.

Testimonial 5:
- I am really enjoying my experience in the research laboratory. I have learned a lot about science and research methods.
- I have also learned about the importance of perseverance and dedication.

Testimonial 6:
- I am really enjoying my experience in the research laboratory. I have learned a lot about science and research methods.
- I have also learned about the importance of perseverance and dedication.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS COMING SOON
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I find out about research positions?
There are many ways to find out about research positions. Start by visiting websites of universities, colleges, and research institutions. You can also check the websites of relevant organizations and professional societies. Attend seminars, conferences, and workshops related to your field of interest. Networking is crucial. Talk to your professors, talk to other students, and see if they are hiring. Research and contact companies you are interested in. Ask for internships or research opportunities. Make sure to check the deadlines and requirements. Always keep your options open and be ready for unexpected opportunities.

What is the best way to get a research position?
Contact the PI at your top choice. Send your CV and a cover letter explaining your interest in the position and your relevant experience. If you don’t know the name of the PI, find out the contact information of the department head. Don’t be afraid to reach out to potential mentors. Make them feel like you are a good fit for their lab or research project. Be professional and clear about your goals and expectations.

What type of research positions are available?
Research positions can vary widely. They can be full-time, part-time, or temporary. Some positions are specifically designed for graduate students, while others are open to anyone with the right qualifications. Some positions may require a specific degree or level of experience. Always check the job description to see what is required.

Can I apply to more than one research position at the same time?
Yes, you can apply to more than one research position at the same time. However, be selective and apply to positions that you are truly interested in and where you have a good chance of being successful. Make sure to tailor your application materials for each position.

How many times a week are there typical research positions?
It depends on the position and the program. Some positions are part-time and require a few hours per week, while others are full-time and require a commitment of several hours per day. Some positions may have flexible schedules, while others may require a specific number of hours per week.

How long do I have to wait before I hear back about a research position?
It can take anywhere from a few days to several weeks to hear back about a research position. Some positions may be filled quickly, while others may take longer. Keep in touch with the people you are working with and ask about the status of your application. If you haven’t heard back in a reasonable amount of time, it’s okay to follow up. Be patient and persistent, and keep your options open.

Is it better to work with a mentor or a PI who is doing research in my area of interest?
Both can be beneficial. A mentor can provide guidance and support in your chosen field, while a PI can offer opportunities for research and publication. It’s important to find someone who aligns with your goals and has the resources to help you achieve them.
NEXT STEPS

- enhance the hub
- discern the best home for the hub
  - breadth of users
  - sustainability
- building on lessons learned about student leadership and collaboration