

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



[www.uri.clahs.vt.edu](http://www.uri.clahs.vt.edu)

### What's all this talk about Undergraduate Research?

In the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech we want our students to get an education that is a **step up from the rest**. Students participating in **undergraduate research** learn to use knowledge gained in the classroom and see how it can be used to create something new. Whether it is groundbreaking research that will help solve problems across the nation, or a creative project that takes an artistic step further than others have taken it in the past; undergraduate research is about **you being a part of creating something** instead of simply learning about what others have done.

### What can you do to get involved?

Start with LAHS 2984: Intro to Undergraduate Research

CRN: 97812 (2 credits) ONLINE activities with a few in-person meetings

### Why take the LAHS 2984 class?

- While other students may stumble into undergraduate research later or get bits and pieces but not really focus on it until their junior year in some cases, you can start this fall figuring out what it is, how you are going to get started and be ready when other opportunities present themselves.
- Employers and graduate schools understand the great skills students get from undergraduate research and seeing undergraduate research on your transcript as early as your first year gives you an advantage over others.
- Research has proven that undergraduates who participate in undergraduate research have increased skills in the following areas as compared to students who do not have these types of experiences:
 

Oral and Written Communication Skills	Critical Thinking Skills
Analytical and Interpretation Skills	Self-Confidence
Presentation Skills	

And these are just a few things that you will get from this course! In addition to building these skills, you will have contact with faculty, students, and librarians that other students may not get their first year and develop relationships that will continue after the course!

### **What types of things will you be doing in this class?**

The class has a variety of online activities that revolve around introducing you to the concept of undergraduate research, learning about the many different ways that majors in our college do research, reading about what other undergraduates are doing at VT and across the nation, learning about all the resources available for undergraduate research including advising, funding, and conferences to attend. You will interact in chat rooms with current undergraduate researchers, faculty, and librarians, and have the opportunity to meet in person with student researchers and the instructor. There are four in-person meetings that allow you to interact with faculty, administrators, and students.

Grading will be based on completed assignments and tasks and attendance at a few in-person meetings. For most lessons, there are several different choices of activities that you can complete for that section so you can pick and choose which ones you want to do.

### **Worried about adding an additional 2 credits to your already busy schedule?**

This course is set up to span both the fall and spring semesters, giving you a generous amount of time to complete the requirements with deadlines that help guide you through in a timely manner. The assignments are all designed to give you information but in a fun and interesting way so that you are excited about continuing with undergraduate research.

### **Does this apply to all majors in CLAHS?**

Yes! The assignments are designed to be applicable for students in all of our majors including those using creative methods in their work. The class gives you a broad understanding of what research is and how it is conducted across our disciplines as our students often conduct research that spans several different fields of study. There are choices of assignments so you can choose which ones fit your needs the best.

#### **For more information, contact the instructor:**

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