Transcribed Research Video

This video is going to cover getting involved in research as an undergraduate psychology major at UCF. Keep in mind there are many opportunities for research experience, so this video does not every research opportunity out there.

First, it is important to know if and why you should get involved in research. To be a psychologist is to be a scholar, scientist, and researcher, that means at least one year of research experience is needed to apply for Ph.D. and Psy.D graduate programs for psychology. Industrial organization master programs also recommend to have research experience as well before applying.

UCF's psychology department is very focused on research and many of your psychology professors not only teach courses but also conduct their own research and their respective research labs. Find out what our faculty members are working on in their labs by visiting our pubs and labs webpage. Some labs required you to be CITI trained, to do this do to the link provided and click on the University of Central Florida, log on with your NID and NID password to take the training for group two. Psychology at UCF focuses on clinical, Industrial Organizational, and applied human factors research. Other research labs our psychology majors tend to get involved in are the institute for simulation and training and the marriage and family institute at UCF. Other companies and organizations also conduct research, some are which are found on research parkways or outside of UCF.

Undergraduate research assistants assist graduate students or professors with their research, responsibilities vary by lab, but most undergraduate RA's set up studies for participants, code data from participants, use SPSS, a program you learned in your stat methods, and research methods in psychology courses in an applied setting. They also read and summarize articles relevant to that field and more.

To apply to psychology labs be sure to fill out an RA match application online by following the link provided. Also, be sure to check the lab website for any application instructions or updates about undergraduate research assistance. You can also meet with your professors to talk about their research and how it is relevant to your interests. Their contact information including their CVs can be found on our psychology faculty webpage. If you are a psychology major, be sure to check your knight's email frequently for emails from us about our RA opportunities.

If you are an online student or a distance learner, it can be a big challenge to get research experience virtually. You can connect with local schools near you to see if they are willing to let you work in their lab even though you're a UCF student. Contact them for an appointment to sit down with them to talk about graduate school, the research they are doing, and how it relates to your interests, and ask them if they are in need of a research assistant.

Aside from working as an RA in our psychology labs, here are some other research opportunities you can get involved in at UCF. The office of undergraduate research is an intensive research opportunity that enhances the academic experience and challenges students to strengthen their critical, analytical, and writing skills in research. Honors in the major is where students work with faculty in their major to produce an independent thesis on an original topic in their area of interest. For the McNair scholar program participants are either first-generation college students and low-income as defined by federal guidelines or members of a group that is traditionally underrepresented in graduate school.

The research and mentoring program or ramp offers paid research experiences to students in their junior and senior years, for the potential to continue in graduate school. Faculty members mentor students and participants engage in research throughout the academic year. The Burnett Research Scholars is where the Burnett Honors College hosts the smart program. Smart offers grants to students and faculty every spring, summer, and fall who are conducting research. The Summer Research Academy is a two-and-a-half-day event that is held every summer for transfer students and rising sophomores and juniors. SRA scholars receive one credit in free housing if needed for the academy where they learn about academic research.

As you can tell there are many ways for students to get involved in research and this video does not include every research opportunity out there. Make sure to speak with your professors and other experts in your field to learn about getting involved in research, advancing in that file, and preparing for a graduate degree. If you are volunteering in a psychology research lab as an undergraduate student you can receive credit hours if needed for it, towards your degree by picking up a URA form from our psychology advising office before the ad deadline of the semester, you were trying to receive credit. Be sure to visit our advising center webpage for all of this information and more.