

Want to Get Involved in Research?

1. Find a Faculty Mentor

The role of a mentor is to:

- assist in the development and articulation of a project idea and plan
- help you understand the methods and concepts of research and scholarship within your field
- guide and train you in the skills and/or techniques needed to complete a project

There is no pressure to come up with your own idea because most students work directly on a faculty project.

Ways to find a mentor:

- Browse the Faculty Research Database
- Talk to current or past professors
- Take a professor out-to-lunch with the Student Success Center's Out-To-Lunch Program
- Apply for the Magellan Journey grant during your first- or second-year if eligible (TRiO Opportunity Scholar, Capstone Scholar, SC Honors College student, student underrepresented in research)

2. Engage in Research

Students engage in research in several ways such as volunteering, earning independent study credit, and receiving grant funding. Talk to your mentor about which is the best fit for you!

Once you have a mentor and a project, the first step is to register your project in the Research Registry (sc.edu/our/researchregistry/).

- **Volunteering:** Still a commitment, but typically has more flexibility with scheduling.
- **Independent Study:** Visit sc.edu/our → Student Resources → Academic Credit for Research and talk to your Academic Advisor and mentor
- **Grants:** OUR has several funding opportunities for students. Visit our website or schedule a funding consultation to speak with one of our advisors.

3. Showcase your work

With a project well underway, get ready to show off your accomplishments! Showcasing your research can help build your resume, enhance your communication skills and give you special networking, travel and other exciting opportunities.

Opportunities to showcase at UofSC:

- Present at Discover UofSC (sc.edu/DiscoverUofSC)
- Publish in Carolina CrossTalk (student-run research magazine)
- Graduate with Leadership Distinction in Research (sc.edu/gld)

Finding a Mentor/ Project Checklist

- Create list of areas of research or topics that interest you
- Create list of potential mentors
- Read about the research of potential mentors
- Email a BRIEF letter of introduction requesting a meeting
- Follow up: give the mentor as least one week to respond to your email (do not expect immediate response)
- Be prepared for your initial meeting:
 - Bring background information about yourself (e.g., resume, academic transcripts)
 - Bring class schedule: determine how much time you can commit to a research project
 - Bring 2-3 questions to ask about the mentor's research
 - Show your knowledge and interest in the mentor's research as well as your motivation and excitement for pursuing a research project