

UR Highlights at SU

- Yearly **research grants** for students provided by Shippensburg University Foundation and the Provost Office
- **CSRC** – Celebration of Student Research Conference
- **SURE** – Summer Undergraduate Research Experience
- **SU Advisory Council** on Undergraduate Research
- **MUR courses** – Mentored Undergraduate Research On-load (proposal)

A Profile of SU

- Rural, South-Central PA Campus
- 7200 Undergraduate and 1200 Graduate Students
- 320 Full-Time Faculty
- Student/Faculty ratio is 19/1
- 75 Undergraduate Programs in Three Colleges
- Member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

From SU's mission statement: The University's primary commitment is to student learning and personal development through effective and innovative teaching and a wide variety of **high-quality out-of-class experiences**.

The University encourages and supports activities which give students many opportunities to apply the theories and methods learned in the classroom to real or practical situations, such as **faculty-student research** and student internships.

UR Successes

Yearly Research Grants



With a research advisor's support, students write and submit grants to provide funding to support travel to conferences, research supplies, and laboratory analysis fees. Students who receive research grants are expected to present at the Celebration of Student Research Conference. Funding is provided by the Provost Office and the Shippensburg Foundation.

Year	Amount	Projects	Students	Faculty
10-11	\$50,000	88	147	50
11-12	\$52,500	110	158	61
12-13	\$60,000	70	135	48
13-14	\$60,000	63	123	53

Student Research Conference

Held in mid-April each year, the Celebration of Student Research Conference (CSRC) is open to all Shippensburg research students. All students register online, are given registration materials (including conference program), and receive a Certificate of Participation. Students present posters, oral seminars, art, music compositions, and other creative endeavors.

- Approximately 400 students participate annually
- 120 – 150 posters
- 150 – 170 oral presentations



Summer Research Experience

A research advisor and an undergraduate student work together to write and submit a proposal to fund summer research. Students are provided a small stipend, on-campus housing, and the opportunity to purchase a a discounted meal plan for the summer. SURE students present posters to incoming freshmen before the start of the fall semester. Funding is provided by the Provost Office and the Dean of Arts of Sciences.

Faculty UR Advisory Council

SU has a faculty and staff committee dedicated to promoting UR across campus.

- 29 members representing all departments within the Colleges of Arts and Science, Business, and Education and Human Services; the Grants Office; and the Dean of Arts and Sciences Office
- The committee meets three times each semester to discuss UR initiatives and to plan the conference.

PROPOSAL – Mentored Undergraduate Research Courses; Banking Credit

How can faculty work with students on UR outside the classroom become a recognized part of faculty workload and become part of the students' course curriculum?

We propose the creation of **Mentored Undergraduate Research courses**.

Mentored Undergraduate Research is work done by an undergraduate student under close faculty mentorship that models the activities of professionals in the faculty mentor's discipline. For all disciplines, the research/creative process comprises both the analysis of past work and the creation of original material.

Summary We propose the creation of a Mentored Undergraduate Research course where one faculty member works with just a few students; the students earn credit as in a typical course, and the faculty member receives a fractional number of workload hours.

- These workload hours are not counted among the 24-hour yearly limit, but are banked. When 3 workload hours have been accrued, the faculty member may apply those workload hours as a course acknowledgment to a semester's standard teaching load.
- As an alternative, the faculty member may request payment for workload hours banked.

Recent Initiatives

- Center for Student Research Proposal
- College of Arts and Sciences Student/Faculty Research Engagement Grants
- Brown-Bag Lunch Research Exchange
- Greater promotion of the CSRC to parents

Action Plan

- Explore the feasibility of a Center for Student Research.
- Find new/more effective ways to promote UR across the University and in the local community
- Find more funding for UR, in particular the SURE program

Help Needed

- Where can we find more funding for our summer research program?
- Ideas for a fall-semester research event?
- Our failed "Brown-Bag Lunch Research Exchange" – how to engage faculty across campus in UR issues?

Challenges

- Budget constraints
- The APSCUF faculty union and the administration support a MUR program in principle; however, budgetary constraints have halted the project. Are there other ways to implement a pilot project?
- Engaging reluctant faculty members from all disciplines