

A Liberal Education Practically Applied: Institutionalizing Undergraduate Work



Rhona Free, Provost
Carlos A. Escoto, UGRCA Coordinator

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY LIBERAL EDUCATION PRACTICALLY APPLIED

Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity

A Liberal Education. Practically Applied.

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Two-Only Version

Current Projects
Undergraduate research and creative activities at Eastern Connecticut State University provide opportunities for students to work closely with faculty mentors on research or creative work. Projects are aligned with the mentor's expertise and designed to expose students to professional activities within a chosen field. Specific activities vary with each experience and by discipline.

Completed Projects
The following pages provide examples of current projects as well as projects that are completed which have been presented or published. Students can also locate funding sources for their work and travel to present their completed projects. For students who have already completed a project, national undergraduate conferences for presentation or exhibition and undergraduate journals for publications are listed below.

Embedded Work

Profiles

News

Department Office
Coordinator:
Carlos A. Escoto, Ph.D.
Professor
566B Hall, Rm. 142
(860) 465-6263
(860) 465-4543

External Links
Council on Undergraduate

Related Links
Council of Public Liberal Arts National Conferences on

UPDATED CAMPUS ACTION PLAN

- Merging existing separate research conferences into 1
- Examining the feasibility of Research/Creative Activity Club for expanded financial support for student work and forum for activities (Brown Bag of Student Work)
- Examining the feasibility of a monthly newsletter to report student work and resources
- Presentations to faculty and students on programs and resources
- Evaluation of "Research Distinction" designation on transcripts to recognize student work
- Expand the number of departments offering research/creative work opportunities
- Develop baseline data for students presentations/publications and course offerings
- Promote awareness of presentation/publication options and CUR Registry
- Add information to website regarding oral presentations and professional conduct at conferences
- Scholar of the week/month series in Campus Lantern
- Integration of mentoring into the promotion and tenure process
- Identify and remove current obstacles to student presentations/exhibition including attendance of mentor
- Continue to adapt process of applications for travel, projects, fellowship
- Increase amount available for programs
- Expand Summer UGR program
- Add mentoring workshop for new faculty orientation
- Add administrative support to the Office of UGR or Coordinator
- Incorporation of UGRCA in Admissions Materials
- Continue to link programs to each other and to Fulbright Research applications
- Increase FLC's for students who mentor student work
- Examine sources of external funding for UGRCA
- Link UGRCA success to our goal of being a university of first choice
- Secure Institutional Membership to CUR to allow for funding from divisions

SUCCESSSES

- Establishing the Liberal Arts Work program and linking this to Undergraduate Research
- Broadening the definition of Undergraduate Research to encompass all work done by students across disciplines
- Establishing incentives and support to promote incorporation of Undergraduate work
- Recruiting and hiring faculty who are experienced with mentoring undergraduate work
- Procedures to support summer undergraduate research, projects, and travel
- Recognizing excellence with the Research Fellowship and Undergraduate Mentor Award
- Representation and Regional and National Conferences (COPLAC, NCUR, Posters on the Hill)
- Expansion of the UGRCA Webpage with accessible links to student and faculty portals
- Creation of an Undergraduate Council with representation from all departments
- Linking of programs (LAW, Fulbright Research Preparation, Honors, and Health and Life Science)
- Use of all budget funds to support student travel for presentation/exhibition
- Successful rollout of all programs including Fellowship, Mentor Award, Travel and Project Grant

CHALLENGES

- Incorporating Undergraduate Research/Creative Activity Into curriculum across majors
- Funds and Resources to expand current projects
- Sufficient resources to support faculty with "banked" credit for teaching load reduction
- Identify faculty from all departments who can allocate time to mentoring student work
- Dissemination of programs that support student work to the campus community at

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

- How to streamline the curriculum in order to incorporate research/creative activity and allow for graduation in 4 years
- How to provide affordable faculty development related to mentoring student work
- How to build incentives for mentoring student work into promotion and tenure guidelines in a collective bargaining environment
- New ideas for creating "buy in" from students and faculty for programs in place

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Liberal Arts Work

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Credit Based Experiences
Liberal Arts Work (LAW) is part of what makes an Eastern education unique. All students have the opportunity to engage in a pre-professional experience that is designed to help clarify career goals, develop skills in a real-world setting, and prepare for future employment or graduate school. Students completing LAW experiences graduate with a LAW designation on their transcript, demonstrating to future employers and universities that they can connect theory learned in the classroom to practical skills and settings.

Non-Credit Based Experiences

Committee Minutes

LAW Updates

Annual Reports

LAW Issues

Some of the exciting opportunities that Eastern students have had in completing LAW experiences include completing a video production internship, volunteering for a year with a community service organization, presenting a scholarly research paper, or submitting an article for publication.

Students can earn a LAW designation through credit-based opportunities (including courses and credit-based internships) and non-credit based opportunities (including sustained volunteer work). LAW experiences must be pre-approved by the LAW committee. Simply click on the credit/non-credit links on this page to obtain information on options available.

Pathways to:
Major Eastern Sites

Contact Information

LAW Chair:
Gloria Caluso
Science Rm. 358
(860) 465-5259

Secretary:
Kim Renaud
Science Rm. 358
(860) 465-4269