

Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research (COEUR) is a summary of best practices that support and sustain highly effective undergraduate research environments. This document is organized in sections that correspond to various functions or units of a typical college or university campus. In CUR's experience, successful programs exhibit many of the characteristics enumerated in this document. Further, many of the characteristics described in this document overlap and are important elements in an integrated, synergistic approach to enhancing undergraduate research. [from the preamble to *COEUR*]



CUR's Characteristic of Excellence	Thinking about your own context	
	successes at your institution	challenges at your institution
Campus mission and culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional commitment • Scholarly faculty • Faculty commitment • Broad disciplinary participation • Accessible opportunities for undergraduates • Integration with other engaging and high-impact opportunities 		
Administrative support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal budgetary support • Startup funding • Faculty load credit for supervising undergraduate research • Reassigned time for research-related tasks • UR administrative support including UR program office, space, support • Travel and other student funding • Research grants office 		
Research infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space • Instrumentation and equipment • Library resources • Computational resources • Other research resources • Research oversight structures • Support, administrative, and technical staff 		
Professional development opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research leaves • Research training opportunities • Non-research-related professional development • Mentorship training for faculty, grad students, and post docs 		
Recognition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion and tenure guidelines • Salary review • Campus awards • Prominent publicity for research accomplishments 		
External funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty research funding • Institutional funding for research 		

CUR's characteristics	successes at your institution	challenges at your institution
Dissemination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer-reviewed publication, exhibition, or performance • Presentation at professional meetings • Student research conferences • On-campus symposia 		
Student-centered issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for early and sustained involvement • Establishing and communicating expectations • Developmentally appropriate expectations and intellectual ownership • Community of student scholars • Peer mentoring/teamwork opportunities • Expanding and integrating student research opportunities with other engaging experiences • Faculty mentor availability 		
Curriculum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research-supportive curricula: content, scheduling, integrating teaching and research • Additional training opportunities and workshops, e.g., RCR, professional skills workshops • Student course credit for research • Requiring undergraduate research 		
Summer research program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research-supportive teaching calendar • Faculty compensation • Student compensation • Student housing and access to facilities and student services • Student programming • Summer research symposia • Coordination among multiple programs • Hosting visiting students 		
Assessment activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of student learning • Program assessment and evaluation 		
Strategic Planning		