

Undergraduate Research Opportunities and Support

Academic Affairs – Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP)

Step 1: Performance Outcome

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Center (part of ORSP) will promote and provide faculty-mentored student research, scholarship, and creative activities on campus.

Step 2: Methods and Measures

The Undergraduate Research Opportunity Center (UROC) aims to provide high-impact experiential learning opportunities through supporting faculty-driven student projects. UROC organizes workshops for students' RSCA development, conference registration fees, travel funds, and hourly wages to work with their faculty mentor. Student conference support includes Southern California Conference on Undergraduate Research (SCCUR), National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), CSU Student Research Competition, Scholars Transforming Research (STR), and Student Creative Activities and Research (SCAR) Day.

Direct: ORSP will track the number of students participating in UROC supported research presentations and run data analysis of the total number of students benefited with all faculty/student research programs every year.

Indirect: Satisfaction level of support to faculty/students will be obtained through the survey questionnaire from the ORSP office.

Step 3: Criteria for Success

Direct: Number of students benefitted per year is 100.

Indirect: 70% of respondents report "satisfactory" or higher on each component of the survey related to the support they are receiving in all faculty/student research programs.

Step 4: Results

Direct: UROC launched three new programs this year: UROC Fellowship program, UROC travel grant, and EG-RSCA grant. Together with Summer Undergraduate Research Academy (SUREA), the new programs support student hourly wages and faculty stipends. Students' participation in various UROC programs activities in 2023-24 include:

1. UROC Workshop – 96
2. Southern California Conference on Undergraduate Research (SCCUR) - 89
3. National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) - 78
4. CSU Student Research Competition – 10
5. Scholars Transforming Research (STR) - 3

6. SCAR Day – 64
7. UROC Fellowship - 23
8. UROC Travel grants – 28
9. EG-RSCA Grants - 50
10. Summer Undergraduate Research Academy (SUREA) – 82
11. Number of posters printed - 40

A total of 559 students engaged with UROC workshops and programs this year, a significantly larger number than the target 100. Thus, UROC met and exceeded the criteria of success.

Indirect:

Student participants' satisfaction on UROC support services were evaluated for five components, a) Meeting research and creative activity needs of students, b) Clear and helpful opportunities information, c) Helping students obtain financial support to conduct and present their work, d) Helping students enhance their skillset in research and creative project presentation, and e) Promoting undergraduate research opportunities on campus.

A total of 10 responses were collected, with 100% of students indicating "Satisfactory" or higher for component a, b, and e, while 90% of students indicated "Satisfactory" or higher for c and d. As such, student satisfaction level met and far exceeded the criteria of success, though the response rate was low.

Step 5: Improvement Actions

ORSP/UROC will continue to seek student feedback and specifically for this coming year, strategically plan to increase the participation rate on ORSP administered assessment surveys.