The Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURAS) supports and facilitates undergraduate research across all schools and colleges at Creighton University.

Director: Amanda Holman, PhD
Research Program Planner: Ethan Ankrum

Concentration in Undergraduate Research and Scholarship

The Concentration in Undergraduate Research and Scholarship is offered by the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURAS) in recognition of undergraduate students who have mastered a comprehensive range of skills essential to their success as Jesuit-educated researchers. Students obtain the concentration through a combination of coursework, research presentations, proposal writing or publication, and participation in events and assessments sponsored by the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship. In the spirit of the Jesuit tradition, reflection and ethics are also crucial components of this program.

Learning Outcomes and Objectives:

1. Students will acquire research skills and knowledge specific to their field of interest
2. Students will effectively orally communicate their research/creative project findings to a broader audience
3. Students will effectively communicate their research/creative project findings and ideas in written form
4. Students will reflect on how their research fits into Creighton’s mission and addresses Jesuit values

Concentration Requirements:

Summary: The Concentration has requirements in two primary forms: academic and research dissemination. The academic requirement includes successful completion of 3 credits of independent research and 6 credits of research-related coursework. The research dissemination portion requires 1 research proposal or publication, 1 presentation at a local, regional, or national conference, and either attendance or presentation of one’s research at 3 Creighton research events. Research dissemination recognition is completed in a 1 credit capstone research course.

Independent Research: 3 credits

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Research Coursework: 6 credits

Student may choose courses from any of the three course areas: Research Methods and Analysis, Research Communication or Ethics, or Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs). There are no area distribution requirements for coursework.

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The purpose of the Capstone course is to create or finalize the portfolio of research dissemination activities that have been completed by the student since arriving at Creighton. Students must enroll in CUR 400 during the semester they anticipate finalizing the following required research activities:

1. One research presentation, exhibit, or performance at an event that includes non-Creighton attendees (local, regional, national). A Creighton-hosted event satisfies this requirement if it is a local, regional, or national event with non-Creighton attendees invited.

2. Attendance at 3 on-campus research, exhibition, or performance events (presentation at 2 on-campus events can substitute for the 3 attendance events). Off-campus presentations can substitute for up to 2 on-campus presentations.

3. One research proposal (internal or external), or 1 submitted publication (internal via Quest (or equivalent internal publication outlets) or external outlets).
   a. Proposals
      i. Research proposals can be written as part of a course, an internal funding application (e.g. Summer Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Fellowship), or external funding mechanisms.
      ii. All proposals should include clear rationale, goals, and proposed methodology. Proposals should be at least 1000 words in length (approximately 4 pages double-spaced), unless otherwise stipulated by the funding agency.
      iii. All proposals must have gone through a peer or expert-review process (internal or external) to satisfy this requirement.
      iv. Proposals do not need to be funded to satisfy this requirement (i.e. rejected proposals are acceptable)

   b. Publications
      i. Work submitted to external outlets does not have to be published to satisfy the requirement (i.e. works under review or rejected still count).
      ii. Published abstracts alone do not satisfy this requirement