Getting Started

Before you approach a professor about research, read their CV or publications to get a better idea about their research interests. Knowing what information exists already about different research topics will be very helpful when conducting your own research.

What is Academic Research?

- Investigation and writing based upon the idea of scientific inquiry
- As a research, you can study many different spectrums of life including social political, clinical, psychology, and many more
- In short, if you are pondering unanswered questions, research is a way to study it
- There are different types of research as well: qualitative and quantitative
- Qualitative Research often includes listening to people’s stories through interviews, observation, or survey
- Quantitative Research uses numbers and data to define outcomes or trends in your research

Defining Your Research Interests

Here are some things to think about when developing your research questions:

- What is something I heard from my courses that I am interested in?
- Do I find interest in what my professors teach and do I want to look into them?
- There are many topics you can explore in arts, biology, history, and so much more. Being part of Social Sciences, here are some topics you may consider for research
- Societal based questions related to:
  - Human behavior in social settings
  - The expansion of civil rights
- Political based questions related to:
  - The effects of politics in media
  - Preservation of environment and resources
- Business based questions related to:
  - The effect of advertisements on consumer behavior
  - How involvement with charities influences business
- Still unsure what you want to research? Meet with one of your faculty to discuss topics
Learning More About Your Subject

You can find more information about our faculty through their department website. Taking a course with a really great professor? Learn more about them through the links below:

- All UCI Faculty: https://www.faculty.uci.edu/
- Economics: https://www.economics.uci.edu/people/faculty.php
- Chicano/Latino Studies: https://www.chicanolatinostudies.uci.edu/people/faculty.php
- Anthropology: https://www.anthropology.uci.edu/people/faculty.php
- Political Science: https://www.polisci.uci.edu/people/faculty.php
- Language & Philosophy of Science: https://www.lps.uci.edu/people/faculty.php
- Global & International Studies: https://www.globalstudies.uci.edu/people/faculty.php

Additional links below provide databases to look for articles and research opportunities

- Available Research Programs at UCI: https://uci.edu/research/index.php
- Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program: https://www.urop.uci.edu
- Library Research Databases: https://guides.lib.uci.edu/databases

Meet With The Professor

- Once you find a professor, you need to get in contact with them
- You can meet professors after class, during office hours, or send them an email.
  - Sample email from UROP: https://www.urop.uci.edu/opportunities/sample_email.html
- During meetings, you can ask professors about labwork or independent opportunities.
- Some professors have labs that you can apply to; labs are often posted on faculty websites.
- You can also ask professors about enrolling in a SocSci 199 course to do independent study
- There are paid opportunities for research working with the university, ask your professor for available paid opportunities if open
- If you need assistance approaching professors about these subjects, SSARC is here to help!