



## Getting Started

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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?

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- Investigation and writing based upon the idea of scientific inquiry
- As a research, you can study many different specturms 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

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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 explire 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

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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>
- Cognitive Sciences: <https://www.cogsci.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>
- Social Policy & Public Service: <https://www.spps.socsci.uci.edu/lecturers.php>
- Additional links below provide databases to look for articles and research opportunities

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- 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

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- 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](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!